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EDITORIAL

In the Omaha airport this week, my friend’s plane was a little delayed between landing and getting to the gate. Watching the other welcome parties surrounding me, I realized we all had one thing in common—we wanted the deplaning process to go faster. While much of the desire for hurrying up the arrival was rooted in excitement to see loved ones after a long holiday apart, I know I was not the only one thinking, “Could they move that motorized walkway any slower?” I realized some of my anxious energy was more habit than heart. Ironically, my impatient moods often intersect with the gadgets and conveniences that are already saving me time. When I check my e-mail, I wonder why the photos of my niece and nephew take so long to load instead of marveling at the same day they met Molly the cow. While printing my address labels for my holiday cards, I chided the printer for the bar code on my bottle of Cheer not remembering that store, I get restless if the checkout clerk fumbles a bit to find the bar code on my bottle of Cheer not remembering that.

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Technology benefits whom?

As a college student I am often counseled on the importance of time management. I now realize that technology is the friend of anyone trying to keep up with the demands of the decade for both automation as friend or foe. Perhaps those who dedicate their careers to improving and expanding tech options suffer from a chronic lack of patience. But like the rest of us, they, too, have had such a positive impact on their lives, I realize that Union’s spiritual atmosphere, supportive and friendly professors, and wonderful, enduring friendships are transforming my life in much the same way. This campus radiates the character of God, producing a light for the entire Lincoln community. Family and friends of Union College students mentioned they feel connected to Union through the people they know who attend school or work here—it seems you can’t help but be a part of this thriving environment. I love talking with Union alumni, friends and parents about their families, the weather, news and daily activities—my job is so rewarding. A common theme of most conversations was the reason for support; most people I spoke with are impressed with the outstanding academic, social and spiritual opportunities that are available to students like me at Union College. One alumna is already encouraging her very young children to choose Union for their future. I was impressed by this mother’s devotion to Union and her firm belief in the work God is doing on this campus.

I not only recognized the impact Union College has had on my personal growth, but also the extraordinary experience in Union. I personally touched and encouraged by several specific conversations. People I have never met reached out to me: prayed with me and assured me that I would have an incredible college experience at Union. One inspiring conversation stuck out in my mind. A woman shared her witnessing ministry with me. Her passion for the project ignited a fire in me about the ministries I participate in.

Many of you reading this have made my college experience enriching already. Thank you for blessing my life. I believe God directed me to this exceptional school to grow, develop, learn and meet extraordinary people. I hope the next time you wake up discouraged and need a boost, you can find as much satisfaction in your daily activities as I have found working at Union College’s Phonathon.

Phonathon inspires me

Introduction by Jacques L. Smith, Editor

Have you ever experienced one of those days when you wake up in the morning and immediately feel overwhelmed by the list of tasks ahead of you? What encourages you most during those days? Is it talking with family or friends, relaxing with a book, sleeping, shopping, surfing the Web, playing a favorite sport, watching a movie or eating a delicious, fattening snack? As a college freshman, I encounter many of these familiar thoughts, and surprisingly, my remedy for a bad day is working. I understand that this unavoidable daily activity is often thought of as the recipe for added stress and not remedy. However, after an exhausting day of classes and appointments, I look forward to going to my job as a Union College Phonathon caller. During each of my shifts, I have the opportunity to talk with alumni, parents and friends of Union. I enjoy the cozy area from which I make my calls, and I am thankful for the telephone that allows me to connect with such encouraging and interesting people. Through these phone calls, God continues to reaffirm my decision to attend Union College.

As alumni share their experiences that have had such a positive impact on their lives, I realize that Union’s spiritual atmosphere, supportive and friendly professors, and wonderful, enduring friendships are transforming my life in much the same way. This campus radiates the character of God, producing a light for the entire Lincoln community. Family and friends of Union College students mentioned they feel connected to Union through the people they know who attend school or work here—it seems you can’t help but be a part of this thriving environment. I love talking with Union alumni, friends and parents about their families, the weather, news and daily activities—my job is so rewarding.

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Enrollment milestone reached fall semester

By Cori Piel ‘13
Freshmen education major

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For the first time in 24 years, Union College has crossed the 1,000 student enrollment mark during the fall 2007 semester. By the end of the close of registration the official enrollment reached 1,015 students with a full-time equivalency of 909.5. The campus has become a home-away-from-home for students from 49 states and 26 countries.

To celebrate the 1,000 student milestone, Union College invited all students and employees to a free lunch served on the campus Tribute Terrace. In addition to the meal and ice cream on Aug. 26, festivities included a short program Remarks and recognition of the Enrollment Services team and students by Union College President David Smith. They were followed by a college-wide sing-a-long of the well-loved school song, “Rings de Ink.” State Senator Tony Fulton joined in the festivities and added his congratulations and support.

“While we’re delighted to reach this milestone, at Union we’ve always known that bigger isn’t necessarily better,” said

Campus News

Campus Calendar 2008

Spring Vacation March 14-25
Spring Preview Days March 27-30
Homecoming Weekend See details on page 34
Home School Snack Peek April 17-20
Graduation Weekend May 9-11

Enrollment milestone reached fall semester

Union students and employees celebrate the college’s highest enrollment since 1983. The Lincoln Journal Star ran a front-page story about the August event.

Dr. Smith congratulates Serhiy Horokhovskyy, senior theology major from Ukraine, on being the 1,000th student to register this year.

President Smith: “We are grateful for each student here and the opportunities each of them represent for Union and for Christ.” JS

Photo: Steve Nazario
Parents Weekend 2007: celebrating family for the 15th year

Stephanie Meyer, Union College scholarships and events coordinator and the principle organizer of Parents Weekend, was here when it all began. “We really wanted to reach out to parents in the same manner we reach out to alumni,” Meyer said. “We felt it was important to have a special time where parents could come and connect with all aspects of the campus—students, teachers and other parents.”

The first Parents Weekend, in November 1993, began inauspiciously enough. Approximately 80 people attended a reception in the Don Love Building. A little more than a decade later, Parents Weekend routinely brings 800 visitors to campus. This year, close to 500 parents, students and relatives attended the annual complimentary Get Acquainted Supper in the gym, the only event for which accurate attendance is recorded.

During the first years of Parents Weekend, a committee of parents helped the administration plan the weekend by giving ideas, providing resources and volunteering their time to see everything through. In the past, events have included a dinner theatre, drama productions and talent shows.

Meyer said that while those events were successful and they appreciated parents giving of their time, the focus has shifted in recent years. “The most important thing for us is giving the parents enough free time to enjoy being on campus with their sons or daughters,” Meyer said.

This year, Friday night supper in the gym and the Saturday night basketball games continued favorite traditions. This year, however, a special vespers program highlighting student involvement at Union and a senior recognition during the second church service helped make the weekend even more memorable.

Dr. David Smith, Union College president, knows this is a valuable weekend for the college. “In some cases, parents are spending a lot of money to send their children here,” Smith said. “We want to honor them and show them how much we care and value them and the students.”

Jocelyn Bruner, Jessica Donat and Andreas Cortis are excited to give their robes, caps and tassels a test drive before graduating in May.

Ed Sharon, a Union College Information Systems employee, gets ready to watch his son Nick, freshman and guard on the basketball team, play in the Warriors annual Parents Weekend home game.

Fall Phonathon exceeds goals

Union College’s Phonathon 2007 was another successful adventure in connecting with the college’s constituents and raising the necessary support to keep the campus thriving. This success could only be achieved due to the diligence, friendliness and all around professionalism of the phemonenal Phonathon callers this year,” said Nicole Meharry, Union’s annual giving director, who is proud of her calling cadre. “The students who call have the largest positive impact when it comes to meeting our goals, and the group this year was truly exceptional.”

During September, October and November, 28 student callers along with administrators and a few volunteers enjoyed conversations with thousands of Union’s alumni, parents and friends. A total of $316,986 was committed by 2,011 donors surpassing both the dollar and donor goals. For more than 20 years, Union’s annual Phonathon has been used to inspire dialogue, share information and generate funds for improving programs and facilities on campus.

“The program keeps growing and changing to meet current needs,” Laken Davis, vice president for Advancement, said regarding the Phonathon. “We love talking with our alumni, parents and friends each year and greatly appreciate their enduring support.”

Class gift ‘swinging’ again

Because of football, Frisbee and other fun memories on the lawn between Prescott and the administration building, the Class of 1994 chose to install a swing for their class gift. According to Cassandra Nesmith, 1994 class president and now class representative, the class thought the swing they picked would stand the test of time, but due to Nebraska weather and 13 years of wear, the popular hang out spot met its demise.

Last June, Nesmith sent an urgent appeal to her classmates. Groundkeeper Randy Bollinger researched prices for a replacement swing that would match another commemorative swing in front of Rees Hall. The goal was to have the swing in place before school started in August. Class members gave $450 in gifts to cover the cost of the new swing, and Union’s grounds department provided the support structure and installation. Although a replacement structure is now in place, a replacement swing that would match another commemorative swing in front of Rees Hall.

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A Union graduate herself, Margaret Erickson (right) watched her son Kevin graduate in 2005 and now makes the trip from Alburne, Neb. to visit her freshman daughter Sarah. “I love the Friday night gathering. It’s pretty fun to see people I went to school with coming to support their kids just like I am,” Erickson said. “Meeting the faculty is special too, just putting a face with a name helps me feel comfortable that my kids will have the special experiences that I had here.”
Campus News

Union's leaders influence Adventist higher education

Union College President David Smith is serving as chair of the Association of Colleges and Universities, a consortium of the 15 colleges and universities located in the North American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

"Adventist higher education is a great value regardless of the school you choose to attend," said Smith. "While I'm partial to the atmosphere at Union College, each Adventist campus has a unique mix of academic and environmental strengths to offer. Collectively we need to make sure our young people are aware of the quality options available at Adventist colleges."

One of the greatest accomplishments of AACU and Adventist higher education, visit www.adventistcolleges.org. This resource allows prospective students and parents to see a side-by-side comparison of majors and admissions standards for each of the member institutions. Based on the work of Weaver and his counterparts, the site has launched a common application in January that allows students to apply to and receive information from multiple institutions. -JS

Do you read Around-the-Clock?

Life at Union doesn't stop between issues of CORD Magazine. To get updates between issues of CORD, subscribe to Union's e-newsletter, Around-the-Clock News, featuring alumni events, feature articles and news briefs. A recent feature, "Praying for the best, prepared for the worst," about Union's Crisis Preparedness Team, is available as a preview of the newsletter's content. www.ucollege.edu/crisplanning

To receive Around-the-Clock News, sign up for the Rock-Pile Alumni Community (www.ucollegecommunity.org) or request to be added to the mailing list by filling out a form available under "News and Events" on the Union College home page (www.ucollege.edu) -SC

Campus Notables

The Adventist Review has signed Stephanie Krueger, junior business major, for the January issue of Nebraska Life magazine. The article highlighted her work as an entrepreneur with her lawn care business. Stephanie started her business her junior year in high school and currently maintains 40 lawns in the Lincoln area.

The Nebraska Academy of Physician Assistants has awarded a $10,000 grant to the Union College Physician Assistant program to support the Health Science Division's monthly foot clinic for the homeless. Union College is among the first institutions to receive grant funding from NAPA. In addition, the American Academy of Physician Assistants has awarded the program a $5,000 grant for focusing on building healthy neighborhoods.

U.S. News awards Union ‘Top College’ designation

For the second year, Union College has been designated a 'Top College' by U.S. News and World Report’s “America’s Best Colleges.” Union has climbed from last year’s ranking of 46 to the 28th position for its category, Baccalaureate Colleges—Midwest.

Of the criteria U.S. News uses to rank schools, a rise in the peer evaluation score from 2.2 last year to 2.7 contributed most to the jump in rankings. This criterion, worth 25 percent of the overall score, is based on surveys of college administrators.

"It is gratifying to have outside sources affirm what our students, alumni and constituents already know—Union College is among the first institutions to receive a $5,000 grant for focusing on building healthy neighborhoods.

From punch cards to PowerCampus

"I graduated in May 1965, went home to get my furniture, and three days later I started fulltime," recalled Dean Dittberner, former director of Information Systems, Union College in December 2006. During his 41 years, Dittberner saw how the computer revolution has changed life and payroll at Union.

Dittberner began his career in the Accounting department. With the technology the college had at that time, all postings had to be done by hand. "Payroll took four days and student bills took a week to prepare," he said. "Once we had all the numbers in, we had to reconcile everything by hand—and hope the numbers came out right."

When Dittberner transferred to Information Systems in 1969, programs and data were stored on paper punch cards. "We had to enter all our data on them, and then put them on the disk," he said. "When I started, the computer took up the whole room. Now everything is run on a little white box."

Dittberner described how in 1983, Union College was the first school in the country to put a computer terminal in every dorm room. Used mainly for word processing in the early years, over time more functions such as surveys, forms, games and directory information were added. "The functions were ever-expanding, but the hardware is long gone, students continue to have more information options. "Students can check their food bill online, they can see how many webpage credits they need, and check out of the dorms for breaks and weekends off campus," Dittberner said.

"Technology has made everything so much faster and easier."

Information Systems is currently working to put even more student information online. Students can already submit homework to many of their classes using Moodle (see page 10), and will soon be able to pay their bill and register for classes over the Internet through the new PowerCampus administrative software installation (story at left). Things have come a long way since punch cards."-TR

So Long, Charlie Brown

by Scott Cashman

Union replaces venerable administrative tool

Lisa Forbes has led the search for and implementation of the new system coordinating and communicating campus needs. Forbes, associate professor of accounting and finance, was tasked to lead the process.

For the last 30 years, little has happened at Union College without the help of Charlie. From payroll to phone calls, grades to room reservations, Charlie does it all. In the Peanuts-inspired naming system of Union College computer systems, the server known as Charlie (as in Charlie Brown) has always been the star. The hardware has been upgraded countless times over the years and new features and functions are added to the system. But at the core, Union College has relied on the same system for three decades.

When Hewlett-Packard, maker of the computers Charlie was designed for, announced they would phase out support for that product line, Union began searching for new administrative software to run on modern servers. Lisa Forbes, associate professor of accounting and finance, was tasked to lead the process.

"We quickly realized there's no system out there that does everything we rely on Charlie for," said Forbes. "Whenever the campus has needed new computerized functions, we've written it ourselves and added it to Charlie. We had to look for a vendor that provided a suite of tools rather than one comprehensive system, and even then, there are functions unique to Union that no one offers."

After more than a year of identifying necessary features, comparing vendors and visiting other campuses, the Administrative Software Evaluation Committee chose to contract with Sungard Higher Education to customize and implement their administrative systems for the college. Sungard's systems are built on Microsoft databases and SharePoint services, allowing for the easy sharing of information between compatible databases, single sign on for all administrative systems and a feature-rich document repository.

Four systems comprise what is informally called "the new Charlie." At the hub is PowerCampus, a system for tracking student data from their first contact with admissions through graduation to through and includes the Self Service Web module.

Integrating with PowerCampus are PowerFAIDS, which assists in managing student financial aid and billing, and Dynamics Great Plains, which will handle human resources and accounting functions.

The fourth system, for now, is the old Charlie. A wide range of peripheral functions will stay within the current system for at least another year until Union's Information Systems purchases additional and consolidates programs that integrate into the new systems. These include student leave requests, guest services reservations, and Union Market and bookstore sales.

The software is being rolled out across campus in phases. PowerFAIDS went live with limited functionality in April 2007, Dynaics Great Plains on Jan. 1, 2008, and PowerCampus will be running in February. Self Service, the Web-facing system students and faculty will use to access the system, will be live in late spring.

"In talking to other schools, we kept hearing the same thing," said Tom Becker, director of Information Systems. "The difference between a system we'll support the system, and even then, there are functions unique to Union that no one offers."

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What’s a ‘Moodle’? by Scott Cashman

Moodle, the online course management system used at Union, provides opportunities to digitally streamline communication processes, classes, and even extracurricular activities. First implemented on a trial basis in the spring of 2004, the system has become a fixture on campus. According to Richard Webb, professor of physics and the administrator of Union’s Web site, everything behind the scenes of the new software “will allow perspective students to see what is going on behind-the-scenes processes, the Web services. “In addition to streamlining behind-the-scenes processes, the Web portal will allow prospective students to track their progress through the admissions process and current students will be able to view their grades and account information securely from anywhere in the world—and that’s just the initial offering. We’ll be able to offer a wide-range of campus services digitally when we get accustomed to the system.”

PowerFADS has already made our office more efficient,” said Elina Camarena, director of Student Financial Services. “After all the systems are running and talking to each other, we’ll see even more benefits. We’ll be able to set up automated e-mails, text messages, and for our students within the system so we can communicate with them in the way they prefer. We can also tell the system to automatically generate letters, like pay-ment reminders, missing documents requests, and notifications of new scholarship awards.”

“Getting ready for online registration has given us a golden opportunity to review and refine how we conduct regis-tration overall,” said Osa Berg, assistant academic dean and director of Records and Institutional Research. “We are giving the students more control over their own schedules and information while keeping academic advising integral to registration. Improving the quality of the process will reduce the moments of stress for the stu-dents... and for us.”

Connecting you to Union by Todd Richardson

By adding several areas of emphasis, the combined major gives students more freedom of choice in their specialization than the two separate majors did. Barry Forbes, chair of the division, said an advantage to this approach was to allow students to have options that are more focused on specific interests.

“Instead of having a one-size-fits-all solution, it gives flexibility,” Forbes said. “This approach is also a good way we can connect with other divisions to offer unique programs.”

One such program is the Web development emphasis. When finalized, this program will mix graphic design ele-

Hannah Adams, a freshman from Johnson, wasn’t sure which church to attend when she first arrived in Lincoln last August. “My friend Jeremy had heard of a gospel church that he wanted to visit our second Sabbath. I had absolutely no idea what to expect of Allorn Chapel,” she wrote in her blog. The blog, called Hannah’s Hang Time, lets anyone with an Internet connection tune in to Hannah’s life as she discovers more about Union College and explores all Lincoln has to offer.

A blog (blogs.uc.edu/hannah)

Hannah’s blog is just one example of the ways Union is teaching new technologies to prospective students, par-ents and alumni get better acquainted with the school and maintain contact with each other.

“These technologies are really just the beginning of a new way of communicat-ing to our ‘Students, Parents and Alumni’ who don’t want to hear what marketers say college is, they want to hear their peers’ voices sharing their authentic experiences. Blogs, podcasts and other technologies make it easier to connect people far away with the Union experience.”

Serving junior Hannah Adams and Todd Richardson recently started a morning-show-style podcast about college life. Called “Radio WC,” the 10-minute morning radio audio clips let the hosts discuss college moments from the Division of Fine Arts with the computer savvy of the Division of Business and Computer Science, giv-ing graduates an education geared much more towards Web technologies than either could provide independently.

Currently the program has established three computing classes—business, computer information systems, and computer science—with plans to intro-duce additional interdisciplinary emphases in the coming years. —TR

Easier and faster,” said Rich Carlson, vice president for spiritual life. “It’s very important for our site to have the latest events and pictures—if a Web site is out of date it’s not worth having.”

“The new ways we’re using online content let us connect with people we weren’t reaching before,” said Scott Cashman, assistant director of public relations, who oversees online communi-cation. “A great example is the education program. They’re using a blog to reach their graduates and keep them informed of the latest techniques and ideas in edu-ca-tion.”

Many other departments are starting to use blogs, too. Campus Ministries has set up blogs for students serving overseas to use. The communications program has set up an internship blog while the inter-national rescue and relief program has retooled their whole Web site geared toward fostering better communication with students. Anyone is welcome to subscribe for free to the blogs or podcast through an RSS reader. For subscription details, visit blogs.uc.edu. Call it a challenge to know what’s going to be effective and timely,” Carlson said. “By the time we start hearing about the next big thing in journals, it’s almost old news already. So we aren’t trying to move too fast with technology. The goal is not to be technologically savvy, we’re trying to meet the expec-tations of our audience. Community and communications never go out of style, regardless of the medium.”
Recent graduates embrace classroom technology

“T

The modern world runs on technology, and the classroom should be no different,” says Michelle Weikum, a 2006 Union College education program graduate. “I compete with many distractions to catch students’ attention. Using technology is one advantage I have because students are into technology themselves.”

Weikum teaches geometry, precalculus, calculus and two levels of algebra at Hinsdale Adventist Academy in Hinsdale, Ill. She begins each class with a PowerPoint presentation to remind her students of upcoming assignments, events and tests. She believes these simple reminders have helped her students become more responsible for their own achievement.

During class, Weikum employs a projector to share detailed information in a more exciting way than words alone. “It allows me to use pictures, animations and videos to illustrate concepts, and it provides structure, organization and a visual aspect,” says Weikum. “I noticed that students pay more attention. This helped them learn the concepts and do better on tests and homework.”

The newest addition to Weikum’s classroom is an interactive whiteboard. The board saves Weikum’s written words, allowing her to print out or upload notes to the Internet for students who were absent or need extra help. Weikum also has the ability to record an entire lesson’s written notes and spoken lecture and save it for future use. “If I had to be absent from class, the substitute teacher could press play and I could still teach my students,” she says.

Since many of her courses rely heavily on calculations, Weikum’s students frequently use graphing calculators. Her classroom’s projection unit enables Weikum to share her work with the entire class. “We live in a technology-based world and students need to be able to apply the math they are learning,” says Weikum. “Technology keeps students’ attention longer than the typical chalk and chalkboard.”

Along with the fun of using technology, Weikum has also noticed a response she didn’t expect—students have become more responsible. “Technology keeps them aware and helps them develop responsibility,” she says. “I was blessed to learn about and use technology during my time at Union.”

Activey engaged

Generic bullet list PowerPoint presentations of days gone by aren’t what Ryan Christiansen, a 2005 math education graduate, considers a good use of modern technology in the classroom. “Technology is not a horse and pony show,” he says. “It should be functional and students should learn from it.”

Christiansen was fortunate to begin his teaching career with a head start in the educational technology realm. His school in Desert Hot Springs, Calif., made digital projects and movie clips on the topic top of all of the tried and true methods.

Technology for teachers in training

Larry Ray, Union College professor of mathematics, has long been an early adopter of new mediums for math instruction and a model for their uses in the classroom. He was so impressed with Christiansen’s use of Interwrite, he acquired one for the college and is now using the system to teach future math teachers. Union’s education program uses a SmartBoard similar to the technology Weikum has in her classroom.

“It has always been a tradition at Union College to equip our students with the experiences successful teachers need,” said Joe Allison, chair of the Division of Human Development. “Our program has a long history of embracing new technologies and teaching students to evaluate their uses. It’s not enough to be tech savvy, educators must be discerning leaders and stewards as well. I’m very proud of the examples set by so many of our graduates.”

CORDmagazine online

For more campus news visit www.ucollege.edu/cordmagazine

• Additional photos from Parents Weekend, Union’s enrollment celebration and other news stories
• Union hosts Gymfest and volleyball tournament
• Bornoe evangelism trip

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Technology update continues on page 33
A career of firsts

Melodie Mayberry-Stewart ’70

By Lauren Bongerd Schwarz ’04
Photos courtesy of State of New York’s Office for Technology and Photographer Gary Gold

Pioneering a path in information technology

Melodie Mayberry-Stewart’s foray into the IT world began shortly after she graduated from Union College in 1970 with a B.S. in business administration and sociology. She transitioned to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to complete her master’s in sociological research and completed a Ph.D. program to earn her A.B.D. in sociology.

While in Lincoln, Mayberry-Stewart went to work for the National Highway Transit Association as a project evaluator and researcher. From this position, IBM recruited her. In her 13 years with IBM, Mayberry-Stewart found her technology niche, being promoted eight times and ultimately attaining a job as a regional marketing and technical support manager.

In 1991, Mayberry-Stewart transitioned to a series of roles as a civic turn in 2002 when she became the first chief technology officer and CIO for the city of Cleveland, Ohio, where she was responsible for creating the information technology and telecommunications strategy for the city.

In May 2007, Mayberry-Stewart was named to her current role for the State of New York. Serving as the top IT advisor for the second-most populous state in the nation is no job for a novice. Mayberry-Stewart generally clocks 14 to 16 hours each workday. Building partnerships with state commissioners, communicating with various departments and individuals, and keeping up with ever-changing technological trends keep her on her toes. She also is responsible for advising the governor’s office on major technological initiatives to help the state provide better government services.

Somewhere between being New York’s chief technology strategist and creating a vision for moving the state forward in its use of technology, a solid daily pattern is both difficult and simple to identify. When Mayberry-Stewart tries describing her average day, she just laughs. “I can’t say what a typical day is; I don’t have typical days,” she says. “They are all very long, and they are all very full.”

But where some may falter under pressure and expectations, Mayberry-Stewart glows with the idea of a challenge. “I love to push the envelope, to see how we can do something that’s never been done before. There is that element that is stressful, but I don’t stress out over it,” she says. “I feel invigorating to have a responsibility to create change.”

Building blocks of success

Mayberry-Stewart’s life hasn’t always been big-title positions and managing billion-dollar budgets. The distinguished businesswoman was once a little girl from humble beginnings, living in a Cleveland subsidized housing development and working to be the first person in her family to earn a college degree.

“I’ve been given a lot, and I feel that I’m supposed to return a lot. My life has been one of many blessings, but I feel the Lord has blessed me so I can...
serve others,” says Mayberry-Stewart.

Her path to service started when Mayberry-Stewart left home for the classrooms of Pine Forge Academy in Pennsylvania. She excelled there and was one of three students from her graduating class in 1965 to venture to Nebraska to attend Union College. Mayberry-Stewart’s lifelong mentor and academy teacher, Robert Booker ’62, had graduated from Union and suggested that she would do well at his alma mater.

While college was a big adjustment, Mayberry-Stewart forged a special friendship shortly after arriving on campus. She spent some of her most memorable hours at Union working in the library alongside Chloe Fozt, who served Union’s library for 41 years. The two were close and kept in touch for many years after Mayberry-Stewart graduated.

Mayberry-Stewart says Fozt helped her adjust during her freshman and sophomore years. “Chloe used to keep me laughing. She was very special to me. I have wonderful memories of working in the library with her.”

This support helped encourage Mayberry-Stewart to pursue her business administration and sociology degrees. Although her current responsibilities seem worlds away from her college endeavors.

While college was a big adjustment, Mayberry-Stewart says Foutz helped her adjust during her time in the public sector, she decided to take her expertise to the nonprofit world in 1999 by founding Black Diamond Consulting Group. The technology group, which was active until 2002, worked mainly with CEOs, CFOs and CIOs from nonprofit corporations. The program helped assess company strengths and weaknesses, directed efficency of technology planning and strategies, helped ensure appropriate technological staffing and taught ways for leaders to present their visions to their boards.

According to Mayberry-Stewart, nonprofits often know they need to use technology but don’t know how to go about doing it or have the capacity or the training. “I wanted to focus on nonprofits in health care, universities and even faith-based organizations that have tremendous resources but often have not thought strategically about how they could improve their performance through technology,” she said.

Breaking down the walls

When she joined IBM, Mayberry-Stewart was the only black and the only female in her office, and at the start of her health care tenure, she was the country’s only black female CIO in the industry. This pioneer path has humbled Mayberry-Stewart. She says, “My career really has been a group of firsts.”

Leadership can be a lonely experience, and Mayberry-Stewart knows the road to success isn’t always friendly. Along with her achievements, she has faced hardships that, at times, have left her feeling alone.

“When you’re pursuing a career where there aren’t many others that look like you or talk like you or share your background, you’re bound to have failures,” she says. “There were times when Mayberry-Stewart wished for a stronger support system. “When you don’t have a support network of colleagues to help you balance your life, it can be lonely.”

Mayberry-Stewart recognizes that she’s had help breaking through longstanding barriers. “I’ve been very fortunate,” she says. “The Lord has put people in my path that were willing to step out and take a risk and look to me for my competency in spite of my color or my gender.”

“I’ve had tremendous mentors and sponsors who were willing to give me the opportunity to be a role model that hopefully created a model and opened the door for others in the next generation to follow.”

Awards and Achievements

From community service to leadership in business, Dr. Melodie Mayberry-Stewart has earned many prestigious awards from local, national and global organizations. The following are a sampling of the recognition she has received throughout her career.

- Achieved two global awards for championing digital literacy
- Recognized by Smithsonian Institute with an award for implementing innovative technology in robotics and medical imaging
- Recognized with the highest national honor as one of the top five systems engineers in the country.
- 2007—Black Data Processing Professionals, Pace-Wimberly Award for Excellence in Information Technology
- 2005—Digital Program to Fight Poverty, featured article in Skatet Technology Magazine
- 2004—Business Person of the Year, National Black MBA Association, Northeast Ohio, Cleveland Chapter
- 1999—Distinguished Alumnus Award, Claremont Graduate University
- 1997—NEII Award for Top 25 Culturally Diverse Corporate Leaders, National Executive Leadership Institute
- 1995—Dean’s Alumnus Award for Outstanding Community Service, Peter F. Drucker Graduate Management Center, Claremont Graduate University
- 1991—50 Most Promising Afro-American Leaders, Dollars and Sense magazine
- 1990—2,000 Most Notable Women, New York
When Rob Koch called home within a month of graduation to ask his parents if there would be room for him in the family business, he found they had been hopefully awaiting that question for years.

It was 1982, and Rob, after earning an associate’s degree at Union College, had just finished his bachelor’s in electrical engineering at Walla Walla College. He and his wife, Kathy, were headed back to Holyrood, Kansas. The telecommunications business founded decades before by Rob’s grandparents, Ed and Grace Koch (pronounced “cook”), did have a place for him.

Koch family business spans four generations
Family history • family business

H&B Communications, Inc., was officially established in 1937 when Harold and Betty (“H” and “B”) Koch, Rob’s parents, purchased two telephone companies from Ed, Grace and other shareholders, then merged the companies into one business. But the relationship between the Koch family and the telecommunications industry extends farther back than 1937. Ed and Grace Koch were closely tied to the telecommunication industry from the moment Ed began work as a maintenance man for the Bushston Telephone Company in 1925. He and Grace ran the switchboard out of their front room for years. Harold was even born in the Bushston telephone office. Betty Kennewerer (whom Harold Koch later married) worked there as a part-time switchboard operator when she was in high school. And when Harold and Betty returned from serving Army time in Alaska, they purchased the Bushston and Holyrood telephone companies that Ed, Grace and other shareholders had acquired and managed for years.

In 1957, after 30 years as owners and managers of H&B, Harold and Betty sold the business to their children, Rob and Del Jeane (“D.J.”), who also attended Union. Since then, H&B has continued to serve the surrounding communities while keeping up with an ever-changing world of technological advance and competition.

Heading a staff of close to 20, Rob is president and general manager, while D.J. serves as office manager and corporate secretary. Rob’s wife, Kathy, is vice president for health and safety, and D.J.’s husband, Don Nash, is vice president for finance.

“While maintaining our small-town friendliness, we want to keep up with the ever-changing world of technological advance and competition,” D.J. said.

The Union connection

The telecommunications business, tied to Union College, has run in the Koch family for generations. “My mom was the one who started our love for Union in the mid-1940s when she attended and was baptized during her freshman year,” D.J. said.

“Because of that experience, my dad was later baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and they were married the next day.”

Though Rob earned his bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from Walla Walla College, the foundation of his college education was laid at Union College, where he earned an associate degree in 1980. “When your education is centered around the concept of preparing for a life of service, it is coincidentally an ideal education for operating a business based on providing services to the public,” he explained.

Service truly does permeate every aspect of Rob’s life—professional, civic and spiritual. In addition to providing valuable and necessary telecommunications to various rural segments of Kansas, he was elected mayor of the City of Holyrood in April 1991, and has served in that office ever since. He is also a member of the Union College Board of Trustees.

Each of Rob and Kathy’s children—Marlena Koch Jahn ’02, Brandon Koch and Allison Koch (current student)—and both of D.J. and Don’s children—Justin ’07 and Brent Nash—attended Union College. “The icing on the cake for our commitment to Union is the wonderful and balanced experience of our three children,” Rob said.

He came to fully realize the dedication of the Union College faculty and staff when he stopped by a Union College booth in Kansas City and chatted with Stan and Angie Hardt, spiritual discovery director and assistant respectively. He found that the Hardts not only knew his children by name, but knew them personally through frequent interaction. Stan had played basketball with Brandon and Marlena had been a part of Angie’s small group ministry. “Our children have often been welcomed into faculty homes,” Rob said. “These interactions occur because Union College employees truly have love for the students.”

Why it works

Service is perhaps the most significant theme running through the story of the Koch family and what became a successful family business. It began with Ed Koch. “He wanted the people in our communities to have all the technological advancements that people in large cities have,” D.J. said.

This commitment to service continues as H&B Communications, Inc., brings the surrounding communities the latest and best telecommunications services possible. “We want to enable people to live and raise their families in a quiet rural setting and yet be able to compete in today’s global economy,” Rob said.

None of the success of H&B would have been possible without a cohesive family vision. Just as Rob found his parents eager to include him in the family business when he returned to Holyrood after college, Rob and D.J. want there to be a place for any of their children who may wish to follow in their footsteps. Each of Rob’s and D.J.’s children began working at H&B when they were 14 years old. “We are in the process of expanding our business to provide an opportunity for all of our children, if and when they have a desire to come back,” Rob said.

“Trying to bring a business on through to the fourth generation is definitely going against the odds,” D.J. said. “Much effort is being made to expand our business in the best possible ways, and to make use of the talents available through our kids as they express interest in a future career at H&B.”

Already the fourth generation is beginning to make its mark. Brandon and Brent have followed Rob’s lead. Brandon earned a bachelor’s degree in engineering and Brent is pursuing the same. Marlena earned a business degree from Union College several years ago and is now pursuing her master’s. Justin, who recently completed his own business degree at Union, and Marlena are currently working with H&B from satellite offices. Allison is pursuing her degree in education, but should she wish to return to H&B, there will be a place for her as well. “She has great people skills and will be a tremendous asset if she decides to come back to H&B to work,” D.J. said.

Beyond the themes of service and family ambition, which run parallel through the bloodline and timeline of the Koch family history, is one salient theme—commitment to God. “The most important thing for us as a family is that each of us be in heaven,” D.J. said. “None of the success we have experienced through the generations of our business will be worth anything without eternity with our Lord.”

The mural in Rob Koch’s office depicts the history of the four-generation family business.
Four generations of telecommunications

1925 Ed Koch arrives in Bushton, Kansas, as a mainte-
nance worker for the Bushton Telephone Company. His wife, Grace, works as the operator and billing clerk.

1947 After years of maintaining the telephone switchboard in their front room, Ed and Grace purchase the controlling interest in and manage the Bushton Telephone Company.

1954 Ed and Grace, with William, Paul and Bonnie Volkland, purchase the Holyrood Telephone Company and begin modernizing its facilities.

1955 Ed and Grace’s son, Harold, and his wife, Betty, return to Holyrood, Kansas, from Army service in Alaska and begin work in the family business.

1958-1960 An exchange (a dial central office with dial telephones) is installed first in Bushton, then in Holyrood.

1967-1969 Harold and Betty purchase the two telephone companies from Ed, Grace and the other shareholders and form H&B Communications, Inc. They later purchase the Dorrance Telephone Company and add it to H&B.

1979 All phone lines are converted to single party provided by underground cable.

1982 Harold and Betty form a new corporation—H&B Cable Service, Inc.—to provide Community Antenna Television (CATV) to the Holyrood and Bushton communities.

1982 Harold and Betty’s son, Rob, and his wife, Kathy, return from Walla Walla College to Holyrood to enter the family business.

1982-1989 H&B constructs CATV systems in Holyrood, Bushton, Marquette, Little River, Sylvia, Turon, Cunningham, Lorraine and Preston, while purchasing the existing systems in Caffin and Chase.

1983 D.J. and her husband, Don Nash, return to Holyrood to enter the family business.

1987 H&B joins 31 other rural independent telephone companies to form what will become Kansas Cellular, a statewide rural cellular provider.

1989 H&B sells CATV systems in Marquette, Little River, Sylvia, Turon, Cunningham, Chase and Preston to enable investment in Kansas Cellular.

1990 Kansas Cellular serves first customer. H&B places first fiber optic line in service. Remaining switches are converted to digital.

1991 H&B provides interactive television system to local school districts.

1997 Harold and Betty sell H&B to Rob and their daughter, D.J. H&B provides its first cable modern service.


2000 H&B provides digital cable television.

2004 H&B provides competitive telephone service over CATV facilities.

2005 H&B provides wireless broadband service to adjacent rural areas using licensed 700 MHz spectrum.

2006 H&B begins carrying high definition channels on CATV systems.

2007 H&B installs its first soft switch, which is equally optimized for voice, video or data.

McConnell Entertainment: Providing the Hookup

Chris McConnell’s passion is of providing others with opportunities he wishes he had been available to him. During his time at Union College, Chris and his friend Nick Clark played together in a Christian band called Capable. Despite their talent, they found getting ‘discovered’ to be a pretty difficult challenge. They didn’t have the first idea about how to record a demo, book a venue or get noticed by a record label. This frustration laid the groundwork for what has become McConnell Entertainment.

“I guess it really started in my dorm room,” McConnell said. “I began doing free graphic design for local independent bands—anything to get my name out there. But after a while I started to have some ideas about how I could get involved in meeting the needs of Christian independent bands.”

The music industry is becoming increasingly digital. Millions of songs are downloaded every day from music stores like iTunes, Rhapsody and even Wal-Mart.com—all from the comfort of home. This shift in the industry has made signing with a record label less vital for aspiring artists. That’s where McConnell Entertainment comes in.

“Our goal is to empower the independent artist by equipping them with tools to succeed in whatever focus they want to pursue,” McConnell said. “They might want help booking shows, getting their music on iTunes or recording a demo. Whatever they need, we’ll help them get there.”

Leveling the playing field

McConnell provides these opportunities through his site, Hookups. For a small monthly fee, Christian independent bands can join Hookups and get their music in digital music stores, distribute press releases, create a Web site, learn about Christian concert venues and gain access to a whole variety of resources to improve their music and way of telling other people about it. McConnell says this is an effort to ‘level the playing field between independent artists and those signed with a label.’

To meet artists, McConnell has taken advantage of online social networking by creating musicstir.com, a community for independent artists to discuss trends, learn about new opportuni-

ites and get to know each other. Many members of the community first learn about Hookups and McConnell’s other resources through Musicstir.

Despite the digitalization of music, many bands still want to sign with a record label. McConnell provides an excellent opportunity for them as well. Band with a Mission is a Nashville-based entity that hosts a slowdown for 20 bands from across the country each year with the winner receiving a record deal from a Christian music provider. The 20 bands are made up of five each from Nashville, Canton, Ohio, Lincoln, Neb., and the state of Florida. McConnell Entertainment owns the Lincoln and Florida franchises and decides which bands will go to the finals from those regions. Last year’s national winner, Rush of Fools, debuted at the top of the Christian music charts.

More than money

While this enterprise is an excellent way to pay the bills, McConnell is excited about connecting to people on a spiritual level. That’s why he decided to represent only Christian artists. “I could have made a lot more money by going mainstream, but decided to stick with Christian music for a reason,” McConnell said. “I would never want to be responsible for promoting music that isn’t in line with what I believe.”

McConnell doesn’t shy away from having his Adventist faith either. As one of the largest Adventist-owned companies working with the mainstream Christian music scene, McConnell hopes to help connect the two. “One of the major goals I have is to introduce mainstream Christian music culture to Adventist culture,” McConnell said. “In the future, I hope to incorporate an Adventist news feed into Musicstir to create more awareness about who we are.”

Today the future looks bright for McConnell Entertainment, but it wasn’t an easy road. “I have had a lot of ideas that failed miserably,” McConnell said. “If you have a dream you can’t let failure stop you from getting where you want to be. You just have to keep at it.”

Check out McConnell Entertainment at www.cmcconnell.com
Chris Trumble teaches technology to enthusiasts

One of the perks of being an editor, according to Trumble, is the ability to assign himself articles on occasion. “I love gaming, so I often write reviews of new games myself,” he says. “I get to enjoy the new releases and call it work.”

“There’s a creative aspect to pretty much everything we get to do,” Trumble says. “What I miss about being a writer is I could really immerse myself on a specific article and dive into it... but as an editor, there’s an incredible sense of pride and satisfaction when you get the proofs back from the printer, then again when you see the magazine on the shelf at Barnes and Noble.”

When asked what his childhood aspirations were, Trumble laughed and said, “I never had a single this-is-what-I-want-to-do profession. It always fascinates me when I hear an interview with someone who excels in their profession and they say they wanted to do this since they were five years old. When I was five, I wanted to eat cookies or ride my bike. I never had that sort of drive or passion about anything... I probably would have liked teaching, but I know I enjoy publishing!”

According to a 2006 study by the National Education Association, roughly half of those holding an education degree nationwide, he found his career path led outside the classroom.*

* According to a 2006 study by the National Education Association.
**THE EYE OF A STORYTELLER**

**UNION ALUMNI CELEBRATED FOR THEIR AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARY**

During World War II, over 200,000 Korean women were forced to work as “comfort women” by the Japanese army. Decades later, they are fighting to tell their story before history forgets them. “Behind Forgotten Eyes,” a film created by Union College graduates Anthony Gilmore and Ryan Seale, tells these women’s story.

In 1997, he worked on his first production at Union College with Mark Robison’s support and training he directed “The Boys Next Door,” a play about the delicate issue of mental disabilities. In 2003 Gilmore graduated with a bachelor’s degree in theater from Union thanks to the Best of Both Worlds program. Although many of his classes were taken elsewhere, he credits much of his training to Robison.

“Through Mark Robison and studying and working directly with him, I decided that I wanted to be a director,” Gilmore says. “Mark Robison supported that decision and helped me train at Union.”

A year after graduating, Gilmore worked as assistant to the director on the Broadway musical Boy from Oz, which starred Hugh Jackman. In January 2007, Gilmore returned to Lincoln to teach at Union College for a semester while Robison, his mentor, was on sabbatical. While at Union, Gilmore directed “The Boys Next Door,” the play that signaled the beginning of his directing career.

Despite his success as a director, Gilmore would rather have people hear about his master’s in Korean Studies while living in South Korea. It was here that he discovered his passion for making documentaries. In his first contemporary Korean studies class, Gilmore learned about Korean women being kidnapped, tricked or outright sold into prostitution for the Japanese army and then routinely abused by 30-40 men a day. Though he knew of Germany’s concentration camps for Jews and outcasts, he hadn’t considered atrocities committed by other countries, like Japan. When the war ended, only about 50 percent of the women were alive—and they lived in silence from the shame and stigma of their slavery. Only within the past 20 years has this horror been addressed in public. Now it roars into view.

Grandmothers seek compensation and an apology from the Japanese government, yet the government is officially silent. Unfortunately, time and the aging process are on the government’s side.

“You hear about the Holocaust but you never really hear too much what the Japanese did. I was totally shocked and appalled,” Gilmore says.

This information about World War II evils spurred him to research and film his findings. Realizing that most Americans have no knowledge of Korean comfort women or understanding of the issue’s current application to Asian cultures, Gilmore hoped to introduce their plight to Americans through his documentary, Behind Forgotten Eyes. To do so, he enlisted the help of another Union alumnus, 2004 graduate Ryan Seale, as cinematographer and editor.

Narrated by television’s Lost star Yoon-jin Kim, Behind Forgotten Eyes has already been screened at venues across the United States including many film festivals and universities such as Berkeley, Harvard and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Many Union students and employees attended and stayed for the Q&A session with Gilmore and Seale during the UNL screening in April 2007.

Behind Forgotten Eyes, has been well received by critics around the world. One of the United Kingdom’s leading genre film journalists, M. J. Simpson, calls the project a “powerful, well-crafted and important documentary film, which deserves to be seen by anyone who claims an interest in Asian history or culture.”

The documentary recently won best film in the Conflict & Resolution Competition at the Hamptons International Film Festival, beating out some Hollywood heavyweights. Behind Forgotten Eyes has won various other awards since and has been accepted to other film festivals, including an Amnesty International Festival in the Netherlands. The producers have a TV deal in Poland with Polish Public Television and they are working on options in the United States with PBS and other distributors.

After more than a dozen media interviews and an appearance on a Korean English-speaking TV show, Gilmore has been asked nearly every question imaginable about the project. Even so, he still loves discussing Japanese and Korean relations.

“There are so many stories waiting to be told,” Gilmore says.

Besides arranging screenings and promoting Behind Forgotten Eyes, Gilmore is heavily involved in various other developments. Currently, Gilmore says he is co-producing, editing and post production supervisor for Resilience. This film explores overseas adoption from Korea. Despite the fact it is no longer a poor, developing country, South Korea sends away more children for adoption than any other country. Gilmore reports that five to six babies are exported out of Seoul, South Korea, every day.

“A story of profound loss and broken family ties,” this film explores the issue through the eyes of the mothers. It relays moving stories like those of mothers who were forced to give up their children and move to homes for unmarried women.

Scale and Gilmore, along with other producers, writers and directors from around the world have formed Nameless Films. This film collective works together to develop and produce projects. Their first narrative adventure, a low-budget independent short-film, will be made in Japan where Gilmore lives.

Nameless Films will also contract with commercial ventures, serving as a production company that offers services to producers. Gilmore will also travel to Germany soon to film at the largest online gaming convention and investigate the online gaming phenomenon. This film will focus on the sub-culture of gaming, a culture that many people know little about.

To learn more about Behind Forgotten Eyes and the stories of the Korean comfort women, visit http://www.beyondforgotteneyes.com.

You can also read some more about Resilience by visiting http://www.resiliencefilm.com.

Visit CORDmagazine online to read a new feature about the film printed in the Lincoln Journal Star in January 2008.
Keep in Touch
CORDmagazine wants to hear from you. You have told us this is your favorite section. Now tell us where you are, what you’re doing or just send greetings.

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CORD Magazine
97 denotes graduation year (97) denotes last year attended or preferred class year

1910s

Ruth Leech Oliver (135) lives in Ukiah, Calif., and celebrated her 109th birthday on July 19, 2010. She spent every minute of her birthday and enjoyed the time she spent with friends and family. She also missed her 109th birthday on May 18, 2010.

Dan Schwartz ‘07 lives in Sault, Wash., and has married “the sweetest woman in the world.” Even though he retired, he still works as a substitute teacher in the Sault school district. To the community he is known as Dr. Dan.

Jan Rogers Jorgenson ‘83 of Boulder, Colo., and helped start the New Start Children’s Home in Harare, Zimbabwe, at the time when her daughter, Bradyn, was born on March 10, 2007. Tangee is a senior manager at Ernst & Young.

1920s

Greg Hodgson ’82 lives in Boucher, Colo., and helped start Centura’s International Medical Missions (IMM) in 2004. The program has increased to more than 500 local health care workers treating approximately 10,000 patients around the world and delivering truckloads of medical supplies that would otherwise have been discarded. Hodgson personally organizes each trip, which includes volunteer nurses and doctors. The organization has also partnered with hospitals in each region, asking them what they need long-term and collaborating with other non-governmental organizations to make it happen. IMM has made an impact in many countries around the world.

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John Janesorgen 93

1930s

Steve ‘93 and Dawn Gray Creitz ‘99 live in Vancouver, Wash., and were recently blessed with a baby girl, Sophia Elizabeth, born on Nov. 13, 2007. Her older sister, Mikayla, is now 2½.

Brent ‘97 and Jennifer Booth Ingold ‘99 recently moved to North Dakota where Brent teaches at Dakota Adventist Academy.

Rhonda Purkeypile Mazlumian ‘97 and her husband, Pablo, had a baby girl, Gianna Lee, on Dec. 24, 2006.

1940s

John Reece Parbock ’50 and Ethel Reynolds Cole ’55 were married on Nov. 24, 2006, in Lodi, Calif.

John and Ethel Parbock

Helton Fisher ‘99 lives in Harare, Zimbabwe, at the New Start Children’s Home with 50+ orphans who have lost both parents to AIDS. In the past they have only taken children 5 years of age and older, but due to the rampant epidemic they are opening a facility for infants.

Stephanie Huset Anderson ’91 lives in New Hope, Minn., and has two children, Bennett and Carter. She was promoted to first-degree black belt on Sept. 8, 2007, in Tae-Kwon-Do. She began studying and competing in martial arts many years ago, but a series of injuries postponed her promotion.

Kimberly Hillhouse Vandenbosch ‘91 lives in Redlands, Calif., and recently had a beautiful baby girl.

1950s

Jan Rogers Jorgenson 83

Jan Rogers Jorgenson 83

1960s

Vandenbosch family

1970s

Brian Ruckle ’97 and his wife, Liz, live in Portland, Ore., and were blessed with a baby girl, Elena Lee.

Tangie Campbell Isidro ’98 and her husband, Allen, are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Bradyn Jade, on March 10, 2007. Tangie is a senior manager at Ernst & Young.

1980s

Jan Rogers Jorgenson 83

Jan Rogers Jorgenson 83

1990s

Jan Rogers Jorgenson 83

Jan Rogers Jorgenson 83

2000s

Kathy Casselman Helm ’92 has opened an online children’s boutique, “Tickled Pink and Blue.” This has been a goal for her since her daughter, Macy’s birth. In addition to children’s boutique clothing, she designs and produces girls’ hair bows and accessories. She is thrilled that the boutique has finally opened. www.tickledpinkandblue.com

Jan ‘03 and Michelle Singh ‘03 Moses live in Belgium, Texas. Jason has opened two new physical therapy practices. Michelle is a physician assistant and earned a master’s degree from Loma Linda in 2006. Jason earned a Doctorate of Physical Therapy from Loma Linda in 2006.

Mandi Jourdian Kutschara ‘94 and her husband, Jonathan, are delighted to announce the birth of their first child, Madison Joy. She was born Jan. 21, 2007. The Kutschara’s currently live in Hutchinson, Minn.

Marion Miller ’94 and his wife, Elva, are thankful to God for their new baby girl, Candace Tabitha. She was born on Aug. 22, 2007.

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Inta Nechelle Rasmusson
Rachel Turner ’07 and Alan Dresow were married June 24, 2007, on Lookout Mountain in Chattanooga, Tenn. They live in Lincoln where Rachel works as a graphic designer and Alan as a Financial Services department

dunion previously worked at Atlantic Union College, where he led in the development of online courses. Dunion earned a bachelor’s degree from Bremerton Polytechnic Institute, a master’s from the University of Connecticut and completed his Ph.D. in mathematics from Clarksburg College in 1998.

Jamie Hobson ’07 joined the Career Center as an office assistant shortly after graduating from Union with a Bachelor of Science in Social Work in 2007.

Dona Kopf joined the Division of Health Sciences as the Emergency Medical Services coordinator for the international rescue and relief program. Kopf and her husband have six adult children and seven grandchildren. She previously taught EMT and paramedic courses at Southeast Community College and has received certification in EMT in Fayetteville University, and as a full-time mom.

Kevin Erickson ’06 joined Enrollment Services as an enrollment advisor. Erickson graduated from Union with a Bachelor of Science in business administration in 2006 and an Associate of Science in psychology in 2007.

Gary Dickerson ’84 joined the Division of Business and Computer Science as an associate professor of computer science. Dickerson previously worked at the University of Notre Dame as an applications specialist. He has earned a Bachelor of Information Technology degree from Andrews University (2002) and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (1989). Dickerson and his wife, Brenda ’84, have two children, Rebecca and James.

Thomas Dunion joined the Division of Math and Science as a professor of mathematics. Dunion previously worked at Atlantic Union College, where he headed the development of online courses. Dunion earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics from Bremerton Polytechnic Institute, a master’s from the University of Connecticut and completed his Ph.D. in mathematics from Clarksburg College in 1998.

Janice McCormack Specht ’24, Garden Grove, Calif., died Aug. 6, 2007, at age 105. Janice’s early years were spent on farms in Illinois, Kansas, and Iowa. She received a bachelor’s degree from Andrews College before attending night school to earn a bachelor’s degree in education. She previously taught in special education classes. She is survived by her sons, daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Maxwell Tindall ’32 (Morgan, Utah), died May 26, 2007, at age 98. He was married to his childhood sweetheart, Dorothy Tindall, for 69 years. She preceded him in death in December 2005. In 1957, Max and Marthelele moved to Monrovia, La., to be near their son, Max is survived by his daughter, Dr. Monte Tindall, his wife and three granddaughters.

George Shebbyhood ’43, Honeoye Falls, N.Y., died May 27, 2007. He was married to his childhood sweetheart, Dorothy Tindall, for 69 years. She preceded him in death in December 2005. In 1957, Max and Marthelele moved to Monrovia, La., to be near their son, Max is survived by his daughter, Dr. Monte Tindall, his wife and three granddaughters.

Shirley Hamme Buffy Gibb ’49, Burlington, Vt., died Aug. 10, 2007, at age 81. He was a native of Siloam Springs, Ark., a member of Adventist minister and a member of the South Oldham Lions Club. He was survived by his wife, LaVonne Cotte ’45, Shafer sons, David, Samuel Espy, stepdaughter, Rosemarie Fuller, Ruth Ellen Shafer and Rebecca Mandy, sister, Evelyn Clark; 21 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Lois Heiser Jacobs ’43, Garden Grove, Calif., died Aug. 13, 2007, at age 86. She earned a master’s degree in home economics from New York University. From 1945-1951 she was head of the Home Economics Department at Southern Adventist University. She married to her childhood sweetheart, Harry, in 1945. She is survived by her daughters, granddaughters and great-grandchildren.

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Kenneth Holland ’49, Hilton Head Island, S.C., died July 8, 2007, on his 89th birthday. He was survived by his wife, Maryanne.

Marvin Gunther ’53, Skinny Ridge, Ark., died May 24, 2007, at age 81. He was a predeceased by two husbands, Glen Hubby and Ed Gibb; she was secretary at W.M. Green Elementary and Arlington High. He is survived by his wife, Ruth, and two grandchildren.

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ern field at Northwestern University for 15 years. After retiring, he was a tour guide at Carroll County Museum. He is survived by his wife, Betty Hopkins (51) Gunter; son, David; three daughters, Kathleen Harris, Karen Owen, and Rebecca Burton; 10 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Ernest Phillips Jr. ’53, Fort Worth, Texas, died Aug. 25, 2007. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1944 serving at Trinidad Naval Hospital as a pharmacist’s mate until 1946. He graduated from the Kansas School of Osteopathy in 1958. Dr. Phillips opened a family clinic in Western Hills and practiced there until his retirement in 1999. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Margaret Reed (57) Phillips; son, Randall; broth- er, George; sister, Christine Walker and two grandchildren.

Norman Rasmussen ’53, Webb City, Mo., died April 14, 2007, at age 88. He taught in his hometown after a sudden illness. He pas- tored churches in Wisconsin, Iowa and Missouri. He retired to the new Global Communication class. The new course, offered in conjunction with Relief Infrastructure as an alternative to Fire Fighter I, gives students exposure to general global communication.

Wanda Freeman

Evelyn Leffler Thomson

Richard Benson ’61, Web City, Mo., died Apr. 12, 2007. He taught at several Adventist schools and acade- mies but completed his teaching career in public education in Jefferson Parish, La. He is survived by his wife, Diana; son, R. Eric; daughter, T. Elena; sister, Rose Keeney; brother, Timothy; nieces and nephews.

Emery Ashby ’68, Waikeren, Colo., died July 9, 2007, at age 65 following a massive heart attack. He is survived by his wife, Mary; Saunders 66 Ashby; step- sons, Jon and Tom; and four grandchildren.

David Bowers ’70, San Jose, Calif., died July 29, 2007, after a long battle with cancer. A native of Minnesota, David graduated from Maplewood Academy, and later Union College with a B.S. in physical education. He taught for many years in Minnesota, Colorado, California and Arizona. He is survived by his wife, Dee; sis- ters, Darlene, Diane (65) and Denise; brother, Dan, as well as many other family, friends and students.

Wanda Freeman ’81, Lincoln, Neb., died Sept. 11, 2007, at age 47. Wanda graduated from the University of Nebraska with a Master in Social Work degree. She worked many years providing mental health therapy. The last two years were spent helping those in need around the country and the world.

Wanda was preceded in death by her father, Melton Freeman. She is survived by her husband Daniel Sloan and their two children, Harrison and Jordan. She is also survived by her sister, Kathleen Harriss, Gunter; daughters, Kathleen Harriss, Gunter; and numerous other family mem- bers and friends.

Evelyn Leffler Thomson

Gordon ‘51, Webb City, Mo., died Apr. 12, 2007. He taught at several Adventist schools and acade- mies but completed his teaching career in public education in Jefferson Parish, La. He is survived by his wife, Diana; son, R. Eric; daughter, T. Elena; sister, Rose Keeney; brother, Timothy; nieces and nephews.

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hat motivates an individual to give? Everyone shares a different answer. For Don and Wanda Versaw Krein, positive memories inspired them to support two scholarships for students at Union College. Through an IRA direct contribution, they were able to honor Wanda’s family as well as celebrate their positive experiences at the college while ensuring that students have the opportunity to receive the quality Christian education they remember.

Though Wanda Versaw Krein graduated from Union College in 1959, she had been on the campus of the college since the sixth grade. Growing up on 48th Street, listening to Sam Campbell and Uncle Arthur, hearing the clock tower chime in the quiet of the evenings and getting married in the former church building are just a handful of warm memories she recalls from her time in Lincoln. The highlight of her time in Lincoln, however, was meeting her husband Don Krein ('53) whose relatives lived just two houses away.

A long history of family ties still connects the K reins to the college with brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, cousins and a daughter attending or graduating from Union. Remembering Union College in their estate plan provides opportunities for future generations of Union College students.

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“Money spent to help young people prepare for a productive life is money well spent,” said the Kreins. “Helping them learn to serve others and love the Lord while being educated just adds value.”

You are invited to provide for the future of Union College through a planned gift. Todd Meckelburg, Director of Leadership Giving is available to speak with you about the many options available.
Dr. Vener Cabana, chemistry professor, celebrates Union’s milestone enrollment with students Alan Cupino and Sean Robinette.

Learn more about this news-making event on page 5.