The Lady Bulldogs claimed National Championship honors for the 1999 and 2000 basketball seasons by defeating powerful powerhouses Oklahoma Christian University in a non-conference game in the University School Auditorium on March 7, 1999, and in the NAIA National Tournament at Oman Arena on March 22, 1999. The Lady Bulldogs were led by athletic director Dr. David Blodgett.

One of the key factors that led to the Lady Bulldogs' success was the leadership of head coach Mary Jo Campbell. The Lady Bulldogs were able to fill the empty spaces in their roster with talented and powerful players. "Prior to the championship, we worked on fine-tuning our defense and offensive systems," said senior Stephanie Clark. "Our team was very strong, and we improved in every aspect of the game."}

Junior Jennifer Henson, educator for the Union women's basketball program, added, "Coach Campbell said we had only two years left and for us to put it all out on the line." The Lady Bulldogs increased their winning streak to an all-time high of 17 games, and not only did they win the NAIA Tournament, but they also won the National Tournament. HUSTLE UP—Senior Monica Elliott ran the court and the Union's senior guard, Monica Elliott earned the NAIA National Tournament Hustle Award. During their practices, the Lady Bulldogs spent a lot of time working on defense and our communication. By bringing in Nahla Daniels and Tiffany Johnson, we were able to stretch before practice every day around three or four in the morning. Although this early routine only lasted for two to three miles, we were able to arrive at the University School Auditorium rather early for Elliott, no matter what day it was.

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**Sculptor’s flames put fire to art**

Art in hallway should stimulate thought, inspire students

**By Dr. Horace Potter, director of Fine Arts**

Christ made very clear that Christians have an obligation to be salt and light in our culture. Actually, he made it more than an obligation. It is part of our purpose, but how do we do it? Culture is a big thing. It involves every aspect of life, it is much broader than merely the fine arts, or what people sometimes refer to as “art” as though they had just studied burning sulfur.

In our culture, however, the arts represent the modern people. People take their cues from art, our times and values. During the cultural crisis that began to engulf the West in the late nineteenth century, most Christians abandoned the arts to the secular world.

The few Christians who remained in the arts did so as isolated individuals without the encouragement or support of the Christian community that had supported Shakespeare, Bach and Leonardo da Vinci. So where does that leave the Lord of Glory and his expectations for his followers? It is not unusual these days to see Christians rallying around a Christian who has entered politics, but when do we rally around a Christian who has entered the art world?

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The question should concern us, because politicians do not direct the course of cultural values, but artists do. My favorite event at Union University occurs without warning sometimes in early spring each year. It comes as a surprise, because it happens so rarely that I forget to expect it. But it always comes, and when it comes I cannot help but smile. The art students make the main hall of the Pinch Building with their “installation” art. I am always amazed by the imagination and creativity that our art students display when Mr. Benson lets them loose with a few sticks.

It is a corny thing when you think about it. What is good about a space of a broken pot that someone in Palestine made 6,000 years ago? It has a flammable rim with a thin and to degenerate. Salt provides flavor, but it is also a preservative. Christians need to be active in the arts in bringing flavor to the mediocrity and reverse the vitality of art. Once a year, the Union community has a chance to see the artistic imagination at work— not vain imagination but the imagination transformed by the Holy Spirit’s saving action. At such a time, those of us who have not yet been set free to look at art. We have a chance to see ourselves out of the rut of materialistic culture that only sees value in something that can be practical. The little fringe from the art students remind us of the entire to which I have become captive to a culture that sees people as mere animals whose value is determined by what they can do rather than by what they are.

Once a year I have a chance to step into this tent and watch an artist on a step ladder as the consistency of the surface is to a way to hang loose on the ceiling or stretch a line along the floor.

I can stand still long enough to move beyond asking, “What is that?” and begin to wonder, “How did the ever-think of that?” Creativity and imagination are one of the great philosophical problems for the materialist. Where does it come from?

So, once a year I stand amazed at the handiwork of God who set the fire this semester alone. Our students have taken on a life of their own. Gee has set fire of five works on fire this semester alone. Gee also did specifically for senior Tyler Malone, digital media studies major, as a part of Malone’s “Shaded Light” Project, presenting: Union artists and their art. Gee’s technique has evolved since working on the project. “I’ve been working intensely on developing ways specifically built on fire as the medium,” he said. “I’m using fire as a surface texture.”

Some of his most recent sculptures have been made out of non-flamable material, such as cement, and treated with fuel, so that the cement can react with a surface of fire.

Before beginning this season, Gee had only held one sculpture-burning per semester for three semesters. He has now burned eight this semester.

Union students are taking notice of Mr. Gee’s work, coming out to see the projects. “It’s just awesome to watch,” said senior Jonathan Blake, digital media studies major, after attending one of the events, held March 16. “As far as the sculpture them- selves go, they get better each time,” Gee said. “I’m making some big advance in the compres- sion of the medium. I couldn’t be more pleased with student response, too. I got a bigger crowd every time.”

“I’m very pleased, and I’m hopeful for the future.”

**BY TROY WATSON**

**FUBLING THE FLAMES—Senior Ariel Gees sculptures burns brightly over the night sky March 16, in the fourth regularly-scheduled sculpture-burning event since the beginning of the semester.**

**BY KELI KURLICK**

**SALSA DANCING SERVES AS MY ESCAPE FROM THE ROUTINE OF COLLEGE, said freshman Kimberly Castelman, undecided major. It loves it because it is an actual style of dancing, it allowed the “bump and grind” now popular among my age group, to a salsa club in Memphis.**

The club Hart and others frequent on Saturdays, is so much fun, and the rhythm. Minds whirl, wondering why they cannot dance salsa very well, despite the how-to manuals, the lessons. Hart said the guy-to-girl ratio varies each time he has gone, to the likelihood of someone getting left out of the fun is slim. Despite the routine, however, the girls who go to the salsa clubs are always looking for more guys to dance with them despite the societal norms.

It is a shame more Union boys do not try this, he said. “It is because they are a bunch of Baptist boys who do not have rhythm. If they could only learn how to do it, they would be more fun.”

Most guys are embarrassed to try this, but they get help with the lessons,” Castelman said. “Even if you cannot dance salsa very well, you still have a good time no matter what.”

**SHALL WE DANCE?—Freshmen Katie Beth Kelley and Will White pair up to salsa at the High Point Pinch in Memphis.**

**BY TERRY WATSON**

**Fizzling the flames—Senior Ariel Gees sculptures burns brightly over the night sky March 16, in the fourth regularly-scheduled sculpture-burning event since the beginning of the semester.**

**Sculptor’s flames put fire to art**

As darkness falls, flames rise no more than 12 feet in the air, burning bright over the surface of a large piece of sculpture. Senior Ariel Gees, art major, has devised this with his art and his passion.

The idea started with a class project, which became an art department tradition. Now, Gees’s sculpture-burning project has taken on a life of its own. Gees has set fire of five works on fire this semester alone. Gees also did specifically for senior Tyler Malone, digital media studies major, as a part of Malone’s “Shaded Light” Project, presenting: Union artists and their art. Gee’s technique has evolved since working on the project. “I’ve been working intensely on developing ways specifically built on fire as the medium,” he said. “I’m using fire as a surface texture.”

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**SCULPTING FLAME—One of Ariel Gees’s sculptures burns brightly against the night sky March 16, in the fourth regularly-scheduled sculpture-burning event since the beginning of the semester.**

**FUELLING THE FLAMES—Senior Ariel Gees uses a blowtorch to light the fire that will serve as the surface texture for his flaming artwork, part of a continuing series of sculptural creations.**

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Photography has great potential to speak to the heart and soul of a person.

By Thomas Fox

Memphis photographer teaches students about seasons, meaning

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Finding beauty in ‘morning’

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MEMPHIS PHOTOGRAPHER Teaches Students About Seasons, Meaning

BEA HALEY KARSH

As a nature photographer, bringing his work back to God is Fox’s paramount goal.

“My mission statement in photography is to capture the beauty of the creator’s works and to encourage everyone to walk in his ways,” Fox said. “I put a Scripture verse with virtually every photo I take. So, there’s a chance the person helmed every picture.”

Fox’s life history and mission is extraordinary—a former Marine in the Marine Corps even went to medical school and served as a physican in the Memphis hospital for several years. Eventually, he felt God leading him to phase out of medicine, but he is still honored for the time I spent in that profession.

In detailing the different stages of his career, Fox referenced the Bible. “I’m called to capture the beauty in Ecclesiastes, and they can change the world and you can tell see the productivity for the Lord. Parenthetically, it really important to write down your goals in life because if you write it down, it’s more likely to come true.”

Fox’s words of wisdom ring especially true to college students in the midst of their own transitional seasons.

“It’s very encouraging to hear some of my artwork being published, especially as a junior, where you’re not sure what your next step is,” said Ashley Mitchell, broadcasting major.

“As a person who has designed their course of study, I was even more likely to hear that. I was really encouraged when I got that email, and I think many students really needed to hear it, too.”

Tom Fox’s photography is available online at www.tomfoxphotography.com.

Local movie theaters slow to offer discounts, options

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Coach ‘fights’ for Jackson youth

Local boxing club ministers to youth, Union students

SPORTS BY DAVID ROSS
Photos by Jonathan Blair

The old furniture warehouse does not draw a lot of attention to itself in downtown Jackson. Inside this humble structure is a man, a man whose passion is in the ring and whose dream it is to provide local kids with a haven from the drugs and violence that many of them know all too well.

Eight years ago the building just off the I-45 bypass in Jackson was donated to a man named Rayford Collins for the purpose of teaching the skills of boxing as well as providing a way to incorporate God’s word into the lives of inner city kids.

Collins has been living his dream for 40 years now. The Jackson Boxing Club was started by Collins in 1965 and is now in its fifth building in Jackson. With the help of a few coaching volunteers, Collins runs the club Monday-Friday from 3:30-6 p.m.

“We try and keep kids off drugs and out of trouble,” said Collins.

To make the activity accessible to all, there is no charge to train and also get lessons from coach—“People today, more than ever, have got to install faith in children, especially those with a low income, we try and provide that,” said Collins.

Training is hosted at the club every month. The club also hosts a Fellowship of Christian Athletes event for the kids, cookout and invites a speaker to impart encouragement.

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Story by David Ross
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