Hammons Hall dedicated with ribbon-cutting

By Kelli Ross
Editor

Union University continues to make progress toward the completion of the Campus Master Plan with the dedication of its first building – Hammons Hall. The university celebrated this event with a special service on Sept. 24, and it was open to the public.

“This dedication is the ceremonial acknowledgment of our new resources for the university,” said Dr. Michael Duduit, executive vice president.

“This is a time for the university to celebrate the blessings of God and the new opportunities now available,” Duduit said.

Union President David S. Dockery and Mark Scott, president of LifeWay Christian Stores, led the dedication service. Union recognized those who made this building a reality, including Dr. Shelby Massey, chairman of the Master Plan team, and Gary Taylor, chairman of Union’s Board of Trustees.

Dr. James T. Draper, Jr., president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, the Union Board of Trustees, the Board of Directors of the Arkansas Baptist Foundation, representatives of the Jackson Chamber of Commerce, Jackson Mayor Charles Farmer and several other city officials participated in this celebration.

The Hammons Hall dedication represents the first major accomplishment of the Campus Master Plan.

This 20,000 square-foot structure houses the LifeWay Christian bookstore on the first floor and additional classrooms and Union offices on the second floor.

The offices located in Hammons Hall are Institutional Advancement, including Development and Alumni offices, and the adult studies programs, including LAUNCH and the MBA program. It also houses three classrooms and a testing room.

Hammons Hall is named after Edward P. Hammons, a university trustee, executive committee member and a major donor to Union University.

Before passing away last December, Hammons made a gift in 1997 that established the O.P. and Evalyn Hammons Chair of Pre-Medical Studies, Union’s first endowed chair, and the Hammons Endowed Scholarship Fund.

The next stage in the Master Plan has already begun. Jennings Hall, the future home of the communication arts, music and Christian studies departments, is under construction and expected to be completed by Fall 2000.

It will hold a recital/choral rehearsal hall, a performance hall, a television studio, music practice rooms, a graphic imaging lab, the Center for Biblical Studies, teaching labs, classrooms and faculty offices.

A prayer vigil was held Monday, Sept. 20 for Wedgewood Baptist Church of Fort Worth, Texas, as members coped in the aftermath of the Sept. 18 shooting. The church’s college minister, Dax Hughes, is a 1997 graduate of Union.

SIFE returns to Union’s campus

By Brent Green
Staff writer

Students in Free Enterprise has returned to Union’s campus after a year in retirement.

The major concern this year is community service, chapter coordinator and accounting instructor Karen C. Miller said.

“In the past the idea was to do as many projects as possible. This is not our focus now. We want to emphasize more on quality as opposed to quantity in order to help larger needs in the community.”

On Oct. 23, SIFE will be sponsoring a “Working for Women so Women can Work” seminar for Make a Difference Day, a project sponsored by USA Weekend magazine.

According to Miller, seminars related to interview techniques, resume writing, financial management and good use of credit will be presented for economically challenged women.

At the conclusion of the seminars, which will be conducted by a qualified instructor, the participants will be able to choose appropriate attire for the business community, she said.

Chapter members will be accepting clothing donations through Oct. 11.

SIFE provides an opportunity for students to make a difference on Union’s campus and the surrounding communities, Miller said, by developing leadership, teamwork and communication skills through learning, practicing and teaching the principles of free enterprise.

New members are added each semester and chosen from nominations made by Union professors. Strong leadership in the classroom is a major deciding factor in choosing members, she said.

Membership, however, is not limited to business majors. Leaders from all disciplines are welcome and needed in communication, organizational promotion and development of curriculum for younger students.

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Internet access coming to university housing

By Mary Tullis
Staff writer

“The trenching already under way outside the McAfee dorm complex will allow there to be a port per pillow,” said Dr. Hal Poe, vice president of academic resources and information sciences.

These ports will bring Internet access to each dorm room on campus by this time next year.

The trenches currently being dug will hold the pipes containing fiber optic cable for each room.

“This will move the system on campus by this time next year. Students will be able to bring their computer’s central processing unit into Computer Services to receive a networking card.

The construction will continue through the rest of this semester with completion scheduled for next year.

These ports will bring fiber optic cable for each room. The inside wiring required to complete the system will be done during December and January while students are on break.

Each computer will have to be programmed to fit the system. Bart Damons, system technician supervisor, will be handling the configuration procedures.

Students will be able to bring their computer’s central processing unit into Computer Services to receive a networking card.

The university network, currently accessible only in the computer labs, will be available in addition to Internet access.

Each room will be fitted with a separate line, instead of utilizing existing phone lines.

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Here on the Fence

By Justin Phillips
Columnist

Another year of Greek Rush has finally ended with the usual blend of yells, new T-shirts, even tears, and it leaves me wondering what place it has on this campus. The process, necessary for replenishing the membership of an organization, is deeply flawed. In this community where the best and brightest have been assembled, I believe that we need to examine this exercise that opponents categorize as a glorified "meat market" and even supporters admit to being a "necessary evil." My dilemma is that I am an active part of the Greek community. Therefore, I suspect my equilibrium will be fully taxed as I try to remain an active part of the Greek community.

Why? Many have just signed their bid cards and will be joining their new group of sisters the following morning. Why so many tears? Well, it is because the end of Rush signifies a one-week (or two-week for the men) culmination of physical, emotional and spiritual stress; all of this coming at the beginning of the year.

Simply put, the timing is bad. Freshmen coming to any university must have ample time to acclimate themselves to the rigors of increased academic work, time management, figuring out why they have to scan their Dawg Tags to go to soccer games and even adjusting to being away from home. The pressure of choosing a Greek organization in two weeks time is not enough. Many people need more time to disseminate the wealth of information and emotions they receive from active members.

As a Christian-based university, can we seriously rationalize a week’s time as being enough for God to answer prayers concerning which group to join? Perhaps. I acknowledge that God can do anything on any timetable, yet I do not like putting divine revelation on my timetable. A week full of emotional stress also allows for plenty of avenues for God’s direction to be misinterpreted. In short, the questions we most often want answered the soonest take the longest to reconcile.

After saying all of this, I still believe that the Greek community has much to offer the individual and the university. If that was not the case then why, year after year, does each Greek organization on this campus receive endless praise from their respective national headquarters? Would the university and the city of Jackson rather we invest thousands upon thousands of hours into community disruption rather than community service? I think not.

Personally, my worth is not determined by the letters I choose to wear but rather by the way in which I conduct myself on a daily basis; all the while remembering that I represent an entity that is judged under a fine microscope. Do not assume that when I put on my letters that I automatically take off my cross. If that were the case then I would feel obligated to point out the downfall of each and every person who sinned while wearing a Christian T-shirt. That sounds like an unreal standard to live by doesn’t it? Well, perhaps you can imagine the scrutiny that choosing a Greek organization entails.

As for a possible solution to my original point, I believe that much of this emotional strain can be solved by delaying Rush until the spring semester. Incoming students will have a full semester to become acclimated to Union residence life, and they will be able to see Greek organizations in their true element. Moreover, the blatant assault that occurs on individual’s privacy and emotions.

Halloween should only come once a year. It is time to take off the masks.

Point of View

By William Gray
Guest columnist

I learned something today. I learned there are some very wonderful things about fraternities and sororities. I learned something yesterday, too. I learned there are some very bad things about fraternities and sororities. So, if A+ = C, there are some good things and bad things about fraternities and sororities.

My goal is not to bash or praise these Greek organizations, but to simply reveal the innocent and mock the guilty, and hopefully by the end of this article, the name of Christ will be glorified. Yet who am I, in my vain and bad things about fraternities and sororities.

My personal skewed theory is that another year of Greek Rush has yet to come to the university. Mainly with this article, the name of Christ will be glorified. Yet, the fact still remains. Does this make them bad or mean nothing about the people that were enthralled by the whole atmosphere of “Rush,” decided they wanted to join, but just didn’t make the cut? Well, I guess it doesn’t even matter, they just have to deal with it. Or, at least that’s the overall feeling I collected during my “extensive research.”

It is not that the members of these fraternities and sororities feel no compassion for the ones that are left out, for they truly do. Some even go the extreme of talking with everyone that doesn’t receive a bid to just comfort him or her a little bit. Yet, the fact still remains that they either didn’t have room for them under their quota umbrella, or that they just plain or flat out didn’t want them to be a part of their group.

Does this make them bad or mean people? Maybe--maybe not, but I can’t remember the last time that I went over to the piteous guy who was sitting by himself in the lunchroom and tried to make a friend. Fraternities and sororities do wonderful things for the community and for the needy people across the nation. They provide brotherhood and sisterhood for each other, and give each member a sense of family -- a home away from home ambiance.

What about Jimmy and Suzie that didn’t make it, don’t they need all that stuff too? So here’s my question: What is the breaking point that decides who is in and who is out?

Though my “extensive research” could only take me so far into the secrets of Greek life, I had it explained to me like this. Fraternities and sororities cannot take in everyone that wants to be in them. Each organization has specific goals in mind -- whether they are spiritual, athletic, social or whatever else they can think of. Therefore, they choose the people that they believe can help them achieve their goals. It seemed like a great answer to a difficult question at the time, but all the while remembering that I represent an entity that is judged under a fine microscope. Do not assume that when I put on my letters that I automatically take off my cross. If that were the case then I would feel obligated to point out the downfall of each and every person who sinned while wearing a Christian T-shirt. That sounds like an unreal standard to live by doesn’t it? Well, perhaps you can imagine the scrutiny that choosing a Greek organization entails.

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Lions and ligers and lynx, oh my!

By Christy Vogt
Staff writer

Students, faculty and families that happened to walk through the main hallway of the Penick Academic Complex building on Thursday morning, Sept. 16, were in for a unique look at God’s creation. Sandy King of Scotts Hill, Tenn., brought five wildcats with her to meet the Union family.

Sandy King asked for a new Mercury Cougar for her birthday 13 years ago. King was very surprised when she received a cougar for her birthday, but it was not the kind she had in mind. It was a member of the cat family.

From that point on, King was regularly asked to take in various cats. “I didn’t know how to say no,” King said. Before learning to say no, King had acquired a number of wildcats, which now total 28 cats. Among them are lions, tigers, leopards, cougars, servals, lynxes and ligers (a cross between lions and tigers).

King’s cats have become a part of her family. Some of the cats stay inside but sometimes wander outside. The lions and tigers are not allowed in the house. King said her cougar even rode with her in the front seat of her car.

A Union student introduced Dr. James Huggins, chair of the Biology Department, to King because they shared a love for creation and biology. The Union family along with Huggins had the chance to capture the essence of wildlife for a short time this summer as Huggins baby-sat for four cougar cubs, just weeks old at the time.

While the cubs visited the Biology Department, students and faculty members observed and interacted with the cubs. “This was a chance for people to see more of God’s creation,” said Huggins. This was an opportunity for students to learn in a “classroom without walls.”

As the Union audience watched, a liger wrestled with a blanket and the 5 week-old serval slept restlessly on a student’s shoulders.

Many students had the chance to experience these wild animals hands on. It was a learning opportunity most would never have outside of Union, said Huggins. “Carpe diem.”

Get your news tidbits . . .

Union Digest

Dr. Martin Marty, an authority on American church history, will be the first featured speaker of the third annual Union University Lyceum lecture series. Marty’s topic is “After the End of Protestant Domination in the Twentieth-Century America: Living Creatively with the New Pluralism.” He will speak Thursday, Oct. 14, at 7:15 p.m. in the G.M. Savage Memorial Chapel.

The School of Nursing will sponsor a collaborative event on Nov. 12 between Union and Jackson-Madison County General Hospital. It will allow high school students and others interested in nursing to experience college life, Dr. Susan Jacob, dean of the school, said. Students will have an opportunity to tour the hospital. Interested students should contact Elsie Cressman in the School of Nursing to sign up for the activities.

Union’s chapter of the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity was honored with the Grand High Alpha Award at the fraternity’s 27th Leadership Seminar Aug. 4-8 in Bowling Green, Ohio. The Grand High Alpha Award, the most prestigious chapter award, is presented annually to chapters that have displayed operational and fraternal excellence for a sustained period of time. More than 200 Lambda Chi Alpha chapters compete for this award, and Union’s chapter was one of eight winners.

Neale & Webb will perform in concert at Union University Friday, Oct. 1, at 10 a.m. in the G.M. Savage Memorial Chapel. After competing against each other in talent competitions, Michael Neale and Devin Webb agreed to pair up for their debut album, “At the Cross.” Neale and Webb have shared the stage with acts such as Bob Carlisle, Phil Keaggy, Mark Lowry and Greg Lowry.

Music faculty members Terry McRoberts, Georgia Wellborn and David McClune will present a recital Tuesday, Sept. 28 at 7:30 p.m. in the PAC recital hall.

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Quick hands and fast feet keep Union on top

By Brad Gaskins
Sports Editor

The Union University Lady Bulldogs volleyball team picked up wins against Lyon College, Lipscomb University, Martin Methodist College, and Lambuth University. In the last two weeks the team improved its record to 14-0 overall, 4-0 in the TranSouth Conference.

The Lady Bulldogs will play against Trevecca Nazarene University tomorrow and Freed-Hardeman University on Thursday. Both games are away and scheduled to start at 7 p.m.

After winning the Casey Jones Village Classic on Sept. 10 and 11, the Union University Bulldogs soccer team picked up wins against Berry College and Louisiana College. The Bulldogs’ record now stands at 8-0 overall, 1-0 in TranSouth Conference play.

This Saturday the Bulldogs will play against Birmingham Southern College. Start time is scheduled for 3 p.m. at Union.

Parents populate premises

Kristy Onsby
Staff Writer

Moms and dads of Union University students will arrive on campus Oct. 8 and 9 for Parents’ Weekend.

This year, Parents’ Weekend will host the Campus Olympics, formerly known as the Greek Olympics.

The Olympics have been opened for all campus groups to participate in rather than just the Greek organizations, Robin Popplewell, assistant director of wellness and student programs, said.

On Friday, parents will have the opportunity to meet with professors and pastors from the Jackson area. This allows parents to see students’ involvement in classes and church, Popplewell said.

An evening concert will feature Jamie Baker, cousin of Christian singer Clay Crosse, along with Selena Bloom.

On Saturday, along with the Campus Olympics, a brunch will be held for the parents. They can ask faculty members and administrators about financial aid, housing and student life.

The Greek organizations will host open house in their lodges during the evening.

Students scout Union

By Shelley Camardese
Staff Writer

Union University’s annual Campus Day returns Oct. 2 for students in grades 7-12 considering Union. The event has been popular with church and school groups.

Campus Day will feature music and drama, a game show, campus tour and a concert with the Christian band FFH in the evening.

Stacy Wolfe, a Union enrollment counselor, encourages students to get involved in meeting prospective students. One way is through organization displays that will be judged by visitors. The best display will earn a cash prize for its organization. The prize for first place will be $100, and the prize for second will be $50.

Campus Day Schedule of Events

12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Registration, Meet the Faculty, Organizational Displays, Bulldog Baseball Tournament
1:45 - 3 p.m. Welcome Celebration
3 - 4 p.m. Drama & Music Presentations
3 p.m. Union Soccer vs. Birmingham Southern
3:15 p.m. Communication Arts Game Show Taping
4 - 4:45 p.m. Campus Tours
4:45 - 5:45 p.m. Food Fare
6 p.m. FFH Concert

Correcting conference confusion

Brad Gaskins
Sports Editor

A common question when reading a sports article about a Union University team: What’s the difference in all those conferences?

The answer:

The NAIA, short for National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, has approximately 280 participating schools, most of which are smaller, private college.

The NAIA is split into 31 different conferences. Union is in the Mid-South Conference. The other schools in the conference are Campbellsville University, Cumberland College, Cumberland University, Georgetown University, Lambuth University and North Greenville College.

The National Christian College Athletic Association, or NCCAA, is divided into eight regions. Union competes in the Mid-East Region along with Bryan College, Asbury College, Mid-Continent College, Oakland City University and Bethel College.

The TranSouth Athletic Conference includes Berry College, Birmingham-Southern College, Blue Mountain College, Freed-Hardeman University, Lee University, Lipscomb University, Lyon University, Martin Methodist College, Trevecca Nazarene University, and Williams Baptist College.

Sports offered in the TranSouth Conference are cross country, soccer, baseball, softball, golf, tennis, women’s volleyball and basketball.

Calendar

September

28 Volleyball @ Trevecca 7 p.m.
30 Volleyball @ Freed-Hardeman 7 p.m.

October

1 Neale & Webb Concert 10 a.m. (chapel)
2 Campus Day
4 Soccer vs. Lambuth 3:30 p.m.
5 Volleyball @ Lyon College 5 p.m.
6 Last day to drop a class
8-9 SAC Parents’ Weekend
11 Volleyball vs. Freed-Hardeman