Newell resigns from provost position

*Educator seeks return to classroom after nine years in Union administration*

By Stephanie Lim
Features Editor

Dr. Howard Newell, Union University Provost, announced his resignation, effective Jan. 31, 1998, in the Oct. 1 faculty meeting. Newell served as provost and other administrative roles for nine years.

Newell’s decision to resign came after months of prayer and talking with people, a time where he said he “didn’t have a peace about what to do.” He said he yearns to make the return to full-time teaching, after years of juggling administration and teaching a few courses in business.

“I had been thinking about it (resigning) for a while,” Newell said. “I knew that I didn’t want to retire in administration - I wanted to get back to where I began - teaching in college. I can devote my full energies to students by being in the classroom.”

The veteran educator began his career in such a role in 1970 at Murray State University in Murray, Ky., before coming here. At Union, Newell has taught business courses on a limited basis, while serving as an administrator in various capacities.

Newell, who has 20 years of administration experience, first came to Union as the chair of the department of business in the fall of 1982. He later became a dean, working in the business department until 1989, when he was named the vice president of academic affairs, the office that later became the office of the provost.

Newell said the provost position involves the employment of faculty and responsibility for academic programs and curriculum. Union’s provost hopes he has helped bring Union closer to a reality many would say was not possible: combining both high quality educational opportunities and Christian values in a university. He says some people believe that a choice between academic excellence and Christian commitment must be made, but the two are very compatible, as is evidenced here at Union.

“We must operate and build on that premise an academic reputation and simultaneously build our Christian commitment,” he explained.

As for response to his announcement, Newell says the faculty has been supportive and encouraging. He wants people to understand that his decision is something he wants to do.

“When I announced I was going to retire, a number of people said, ‘We’re really happy for you - go for it,’” he said with a smile.

“Dr. Newell has been a major player in Union’s academic advances since 1988,” Dr. Kelvin Moore, president of the faculty forum, said. “His contributions are greatly appreciated. His departure creates a void that will be difficult to fill,” he continued.

Newell has not only added to the position, but has gained wonderful experiences as well.

“You learn a lot on the job from relationships that develop between my office and the faculty,” he said. “(I developed) close relationships with people who worked with me, not for me. That’s the way it has to be. Faculty want to be involved in their future,” he continued.

President David Dockery praised Newell for his role in shaping Union and its reputation.

“I have nothing but appreciation and respect for Dr. Howard Newell and the tremendous service he has provided for Union University. He has raised the academic quality, the commitment and the reputation of this institution over the past decade in significant ways,” he said. “I think the entire administration and faculty would join me in expressing our debt to him and our best wishes for him in the transition,” he said.

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SGA gives students new offices in Union political arena

By Andrea Aldridge
News Editor

Emily Wiltshire was named vice president of the Student Government Association Friday, Oct. 3. Wiltshire, a junior, is very excited about the new position.

Tim Patterson, SGA president, appointed John Carroll to executive assistant to SGA. Stephen Phillips, technology coordinator, was also appointed by Patterson.

“My biggest goal (as vice president) is to jump right in with the team already there. SGA’s goals are increased visibility, increased activity with the campus and to be more respectable to students and listened to by faculty and administration,” Wiltshire said.

Wiltshire will preside over Senate meetings beginning Oct. 29. She said she wants to serve as much as she can by being open to students’ opinions and ideas.

Wiltshire wants students “to get excited about SGA and use us as a resource. We are an Adrian to campus organizations.”

Another one of Wiltshire’s personal goals for SGA is to work closely with the freshman council to help build leadership skills. The new vice president attended their meeting last week.

Carroll, former SGA vice president, stated he is currently on bad standing and is not able to hold an elected position.

“I am excited about the new addition to the Executive Board, Emily Wiltshire, and am also excited about my new position because I am not restricted to certain tasks but can focus on the issues that I am concerned with,” Carroll said.

Patterson appointed senior Phillips technical officer. He will design an Internet web site for SGA.

All the officers look forward to fulfilling their new duties.
Above and Beyond

By Andrew Long  
Staff Writer

“Above and beyond:” the phrase itself has become a cliche, while the people who achieve this standing are anything but cliche.

Stephanie Lee is no exception. The senior education major hails from Blue Springs, Mo. The middle child of three, she has a 23-year-old sister and a little brother who is a senior in high school. Her family travels over 40 weeks of the year singing at revivals. Stephanie and her brother are working on an album that is scheduled to come out this fall.

“Music is my life,” she said. Directing and singing in the ladies’ ensemble, Joy, has been yet another way to use her talent to glorify God.

While music is her life, Stephanie majors in education. She said that she has known since first grade that she wanted to be involved in some aspect of teaching. Her decision was also influenced by her grandmother, who was a teacher.

According to Lee, her parents are the most influential people in her life. “They taught me how to live by faith. They never worried...they were perfect examples of complete trust in the Lord. Their natural reaction in any situation was to trust. I love my family,” she said.

Until the summer before her senior year in high school, Stephanie and her family had never heard of Union. Paul Veazey of Union’s advancement office spoke at a service the Lee’s attended at Beaula Baptist Church.

After the service, Veazey suggested to Stephanie that she look at Union’s campus. Taking his advice, she made a visit to Jackson. “I can’t imagine my life not being here,” Stephanie now says. “When I visited, I had a total peace that this was where God wanted me to be.”

Since coming to Union, Stephanie has been involved in several forms of ministry. As a freshman, she joined the Creative Ministries, which include the Sunshine Puppets and Vision Clowns, Hands for Jesus, Impact and Joy. Now, as the director of the Creative Ministries team, her responsibilities include meeting with the directors of each ministry team and scheduling events.

In addition to directing Creative Ministries, she has been a FOCUS leader since her sophomore year and is also a Life Group leader.

“I love my Life Group,” she smiled. “They’re the greatest group of freshmen on campus.”

After graduation, Stephanie plans to pursue a master’s degree in higher education administration, but is currently undecided about where she will continue her education.

One thing is certain, however, regardless of where she decides to finish her education: when Stephanie’s undying desire to serve carries over into her career as it has at Union, others will surely recognize her as having gone above and beyond.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I write this letter to the Cardinal & Cream because I am disappointed in their coverage of current events that are occurring on our campus. In the most recent edition, the paper covered the opening of a new campus for Union in Germantown, Tenn., Sigma Alpha Epsilon’s receiving of the Zeal award and a reduction in chapel requirements. I agree that these are newsworthy stories covered by the paper.

However, I am curious to know why the paper did not cover another story that was equally important. This story was the removal of SGA Vice President John Carroll. He was elected by his peers to represent them in the student government. This was a very newsworthy story that affects all Union students. The paper did not cover his removal from office, reason for removal or his appointment to another position within SGA.

The paper decided to cover the story about a new campus that is definitely decades away from being a reality. However, this story was viewed to be front page news by your editors. There were other stories that were definitely less important than the removal of our SGA Vice President. Among these was a lengthy article about Union’s soccer team. There was an article covering the summer box office hits. Another article was about Union’s recognition from U.S. News and World Report. We have all heard about this article in the publication repeatedly.

I would like to emphasize that there are some stories that the student body is more concerned with. The removal of an SGA officer is one of these articles. I wonder if the staff of the Cardinal & Cream is afraid of a little controversy. After all, controversy will increase circulation and the number of readers of the paper. It seems to me that the paper is more of a public relations publication than one for news. The Cardinal and Cream seems to be a tool of Union’s administration and in existence to advertise Union and its accomplishments.

Please try to understand that sometimes the most newsworthy stories are negative. Since the paper is a publication for students by students, I believe that we should read more about the issues that concern the whole student body.

Stephen Forrester  
Senior  
Economics/Finance

Here on the Fence

By Justin Phillips  
Columnist

I believe a Kennedy once said, “My fellow Americans, ask not what I can do for you, but ask what you can do for me.” Yes, it was a Kennedy: Ted, after happy hour.

In any case, as a member of the press and fully sober, I find myself asking the exact opposite: What can I do for you? After all, is not the role of the press service? I guess we shall find out, as I lean ever so slightly here on the fence.

What responsibility do I have as a member of Union University’s newspaper staff? Depends on who you ask. According to the First Amendment I can do just about anything up to shouting “Fire!” in a crowded theater. “Congress shall make no law...prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press.” However, if I turn to page seven in my Campus Life Handbook I immediately notice this passage: “We value the intrinsic worth of every individual in the community.” I’ll give you a moment to dry your eyes...OK, all better.

According to the handbook, everyone at this campus is worth something, and not wishing to offend theramer of either Constitution, I have come to a conclusion. It is all right for me to berate anyone on this campus I do not know personally. After all, I spend so much energy thinking about national figures so that the 12 readers of this publication will have something to chuckle about.

Why not hit home? What is to stop me from digging all over this campus like some hyperactive Jimmy Olson?

I could start my own publication. It would be devoted to all the stuff most people do not want you to know. Picture it: I could boost a security golf cart and chase unsuspecting students across our vast campus until they’re forced into the Fountain (a la British paparazzi), screaming for the good ol’ days when The Cardinal & Cream printed shiny, happy stories. I’ll tell you what would stop me from doing such a thing. The minute I got into the fertilizing business I would become about as popular as potpourri baskets in a football locker room. Not only that, but my credibility as a journalist would fade faster than an All-Sing Shankel.

You see, we have a responsibility to remember that though we are a “real” college, we are not an “ordinary” college. The key word in that stirring statement from the handbook is “community.” The fact is that we pass with each other in the halls, attend class together and dream sweet dreams together in chapel. Unlike many schools, this is a community.

However, when we choose not to live with that in mind, we dishonor the name for which this university was so aptly named: Union.

It is similar to when your neighbor asks to borrow your shovel and then proceeds to dig up your yard with it. Well, the solution is obvious. You take your shovel back, go inside your house, and don’t associate with him anymore.

You see, boys and girls, when you become the neighborhood nuisance, you’ll find yourself lonelier than “Kung Fu’s” David Carradine on “Bean Burrito Night” at the local leper colony. Maybe that is the wrong attitude, but I’m sorry. The initials on my bracelet stand for “What Would Justin Do?” Because, quite frankly, my current perception of this happy neighborhood has Mr. Rogers slapping on a bulletproof sweater and yelling “Cover me!” just to put on an impromptu puppet show.

Perhaps there are a few solutions to all of our tensions: MTV, open dorms, zero chapels...