Dockery announces candidate for provost

By Stephanie Lim
Features Editor

Dr. Carla Sanderson, dean of the school of nursing, was announced as Dr. David Dockery’s candidate for provost at the Nov. 5 faculty meeting. Sanderson, a 1981 Union graduate, became a member of Union’s faculty the following year as a nursing instructor, and has served in the School of Nursing as professor and dean.

Dockery said he had asked Sanderson to interview with the Academic Committee of the Board of Trustees to help aid in the process of reviewing her as a candidate for provost. If her appointment is approved by the Board on Dec. 5, Sanderson would fill the vacancy left by Dr. Howard Newell, current provost, and professor of business, beginning in January 1998. Newell is leaving the position after nine years in administration to return to teaching business.

“It’s a very humbling idea to be considered for provost,” Sanderson said of her candidacy. “Union University has been a part of me all my life.”

Sanderson received her diploma from the Baptist Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in 1979, then graduated from Union two years later with her bachelor of science in nursing. She went on to earn her master’s degree from the University of Tennessee at Memphis in 1982 and joined Union’s faculty the same year. She later took an educational leave of absence to pursue her doctorate degree from the University of Florida, which she received in 1990, and then returned to teach at Union later that year.

Dockery said that as it became clear that Newell would be leaving the provost position, he began to formulate criteria for the new administrator.

“What we needed was someone who understood Union’s past and is committed to Union’s future, someone who can represent continuity and bring a fresh vision at the same time - a collegial team person,” he explained. “The more I thought about that profile, the more the only person that fit was Dr. Sanderson.”

The decision to nominate Sanderson as provost came as a result of months of thinking and planning, Dockery said. He said he had explored ideas about restructuring within the university, hiring an external candidate or even combining the presidential and provost positions. The president also met with the President’s Council and Dr. Michael Duduit, executive vice president, as well as several deans and committee chairs before coming to his conclusion.

“(Dr. Sanderson) is the best person for the job,” Dockery said. “She is committed to a Christian world view and the importance of integrating faith and learning at Union.”

Pep band no longer to appear at Bulldog basketball games; 30-year tradition halted

By Jennifer Kormann
Staff Writer

As the year began, President David Dockery decided to realign many departments’ budgets. One of these realignments moved funding for the basketball teams’ pep band from the Music Department to the Athletic Department.

The pep band, which has played at Union basketball games for over 30 years, is made up of members of the jazz band. The band had played at every regularly scheduled home game.

“Live music is important. Real humans making music has a much stronger impact than a compact disc,” McClune said.

Dockery moved the funds from the Music Department to the Athletic Department because he felt that the pep band had more to do with athletics than with music.

The Athletic Department decided it did not have the funds to support the pep band, McClune said. After this decision, McClune decided the band could not play at the games.

“We have a great service, and it was nice to offer it, but on the other hand, it is a great burden on the students. You do not give your time and efforts away,” McClune said.

“Money for sheet music and work study were needed for the pep band members. This kind of money has never been allotted for the pep band,” Coach David Blackstock explained. “It is not like we decided to take money from the band, because we have never in the past given them any kind of financial support,” he continued.

“Through the years of playing at games, we realized that we have not been able to support the band members, even though this year we have been able to offer them some financial support,” McClune said.

“Many of the colleges that Union plays in basketball do not have pep bands. They simply rely on the CD player for their music. While this music may be popular, it is not able to follow and react to the emotions of both the players and the fans we way live music can,” McClune said.

“I miss the band and hope that in the near future something will be worked out so that they can play for us again,” Blackstock said.
Here on the Fence

By Justin Phillips
Columnist

About a month ago, a couple of teen-agers destroyed the now-famous Serrano photograph of a crucifix immersed in urine. Now a lot of you may be thinking, “Yeah, chalk up another victory for level-headed Christians!” but hold on, boys and girls. Serrano claims to be a Christian. He says that the photograph “is a representation of the pain and suffering Christ endured for all of us.” Wow! Do we believe him? I don’t know, but I’m looking for letters on this one too, here on the fence.

Why are we so afraid of art? I’ll tell you why: it is because we are afraid to think. Art in general has been branded about as taboo as doing you-know-what in church. Individuals who happen to be the least bit creative or stray from the “norm” are not admired as they were in, say, ancient Greece. They are dismissed as simply being strange and cast into societal purgatory consisting of Dan Quayle, the cast of “Ali,” Lambuth, and the Spice Girls’ latest CD.

Art enters our everyday conversation through movies, music, and architecture, yet how often do we really appreciate their work? It happens about as often as Tennessee beats Florida. The fact is that there are many arenas in which one can enjoy art whether it is the opera, the latest Pauly Shore movie, or the ballet ... all right, scratch the ballet. I’m an open-minded guy, but not that open-minded.

The citizens of these United States are probably the least cultured beings on the face of the earth, next to the National Rifle Association. Most Americans consider an evening of culture watching Jackie Chan flicks over Los Portales takeout. I’ll admit that I am perfectly content listening to Hootie and watching Monday Night Football, but every once in a while I kind of like flipping over to PBS to watch a few plum paintings belt their hearts out. Why? For the simple fact that it is not Monday Night Football, that’s why.

A few weeks ago, I went to see Union’s production of “The Miracle Worker.” It was quite refreshing to see students on this campus produce something of such excellent quality. Why did I go? Honestly, I had to for a class. What a shame that it took a class for me to go. An even greater shame will be that many will assess the play’s quality to the theory of, “They’re drama people. That’s just the only thing that they excel in.” What we must realize is that the gift to create lies within us all.

You see, someone’s creation is just that: a part of a person. Therefore, we will not always understand every facet of the art. I don’t understand every painting I see. I don’t understand every scene of a film. I don’t understand any Beck song! However, I do not quit looking and listening. I look for that which means something to me and no one else.

So the next time you happen to stroll by a photograph of a crucifix immersed in urine and you suddenly get angry, stop and look. If the photograph infuriates you, if it pains you to see your Savior’s death portrayed in such a manner, then you are fully understanding the artist’s intentions. Magnify that pain and sadness you feel a thousand times over, and that still does not touch the agony Christ endured for you and me. On the other hand, that takes an open mind, and who has time for such a thing? My box number is 1751.

Phillips is a junior Political Science major.