



Rankin receives M.E. Dodd Service Award

Jerry Rankin, the retiring president of the Southern Baptist Convention's International Mission Board, is the 2010 recipient of Union University's M.E. Dodd Denominational Service Award.

Rankin received the award during a visit to campus in early March. He will retire July 31 after serving as the IMB's leader for 17 years.

"Over the last 12 years, Union University has sent more graduates on to serve with the International Mission Board than any other Baptist college in the country," said Union President David S. Dockery. "We have a great desire to continue the relationship with the IMB, but at this time of transition, we wanted to pause and say a special word of thanks to the one who has enhanced that relationship for us in recent years."

Union trustees select the award's recipient each year, based on excellence and leadership in Southern Baptist life, as well as friendship and commitment to Union University. Past recipients include Jimmy Draper (2004), Adrian Rogers (2005), Morris Chapman (2006), Frank Page (2007), Thom Rainer (2008) and R. Albert Mohler Jr. (2009).

Rankin said after accepting the award that if a university does not prepare its students to relate to the world internationally, its program is not relevant to the future. He praised Union for its work in that area and for its strong partnership with the IMB. ☞

Union delegation earns top honor

Delegates from Union University to the 40th General Assembly of the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature earned the Best Delegation award for their role in the proceedings at the State Capitol in Nashville.

TISL is a statewide organization formed in 1966 to give college students a voice in state government. The nonpartisan organization convenes a General Assembly each year, held in the

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New Providence Hall under construction on the west side of campus will house the School of Pharmacy.

Trustees approve new budget, building names

Union University trustees approved a record \$80 million budget for 2010-2011 – a 12 percent increase from the previous year – as part of their April meeting.

Union President David S. Dockery described the budget as both hopeful and cautious. "It will help move the university forward in a significant way," he said.

The budget includes 20 new positions and a reduction in expected revenue from gifts and endowment earnings because of a stalled economy. It allows for various capital expenditures, such as improvements to the Penick Academic Complex.

Earlier in the spring, Union trustees named two new campus facilities with expressions of thanksgiving firmly in mind.

The new pharmacy building was named Providence Hall and the new residence facility under construction will be called Hope Quad.

Trustees say the names are an acknowledgment of the providence and hope God sustained during the recovery from a 2008 tornado that did more than \$40 million worth of damage to the campus.

Providence Hall, located immediately west of Jennings Hall, is a three-story, 54,000 square-foot facility that will house the School of Pharmacy's classrooms, labs, faculty offices and dean's office. In addition to the 40,000 square feet for the pharmacy program, the building will also include additional space for healthcare simulation education.

Construction began last year and will be complete this summer. The School of Pharmacy will occupy the building for the fall semester.

Hope Quad contains three residential buildings that will also be ready for the fall semester, with the fourth building to complete the quad scheduled for construction at a later date. ☞



Kay and Prothero headline Union Forum series

The 11th annual Union Forum featured a new format: one keynote speaker in each of the fall and spring semesters.

The spring speaker was Stephen Prothero, who addressed the topic “Religious Literacy.” Prothero is professor of religion at Boston University and the author of the bestselling book, *Religious Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know – And Doesn’t*. He has appeared on network television shows such as “Today,” “The O’Reilly Factor” and “The Daily Show.”

He said religious illiteracy was rampant among the U.S. population, and as evidence he cited statistics indicating that only half of Americans can name one of the four gospels.

Such illiteracy poses problems not only for religious communities, but for academic pursuits as well, as Prothero argued that it’s impossible to understand J.S. Bach, T.S. Eliot, El Greco or many other important historical figures without an adequate understanding of the Bible.

Prothero suggested that the United States mandate two public school courses for high school

students – one on the Bible and one on world religions – that would stick to teaching basic facts about religion. Such courses would pass constitutional muster, he argued, because the Supreme Court has not prohibited the study of religion, and has even promoted it as long as it’s not done in a sectarian way.

The fall speaker was Katty Kay, co-presenter of BBC World news bulletins and the Washington correspondent for BBC World News America.

Kay told a September Union audience that college students can contribute to the global prestige of the United States by getting passports and using them.

“Get out and see the world,” Kay said to the Union students in attendance. “Forget that well paying job in New York for six months or a year and hit the sidewalks in New Delhi instead. It will enrich your lives, and it will show other people the very best of this country.”

Sponsors for this year’s Union Forum included First South Bank, TLM Associates, West Tennessee Healthcare, The Jackson Sun and Trumbull Laboratories LLC. 📍

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Tennessee General Assembly’s chambers, for students to introduce debate and vote on legislation about state issues.



Sixteen Union University students participated in this event, including junior Micah Roeder, who served as the TISL governor after being elected

to the position last year.

“It went really well,” Roeder said. “It was somewhat interesting because I spent most of the year preparing for it and planning for it, and once I get there I can’t really do a whole lot.”

Roeder said once the General Assembly convened, he had to rely more on the work of other executive council members.

Union sophomore Kristin Tisdale served as speaker pro tem of the Senate, and junior Ryan Hoover was chief clerk of the House. Freshman Will McClure was elected as state treasurer for next year’s event.

Union’s delegates presented seven bills that passed both houses of the General Assembly. Roeder said that TISL alumni serving in the Tennessee legislature often draft bills based on TISL legislation. 📍

Benson creates Hermitage sculpture



Union University art professor Lee Benson sculpted a memorial to 60 slaves recently reinterred on the grounds of The Hermitage, Andrew

Jackson’s historic home in Nashville.

A dozen artists responded to the Hermitage’s open call for sculptors to submit their qualifications to produce such a work at the National Historic Landmark – a place that includes restored slave quarters.

“I really wanted this piece,” Benson said. “This one was really important to me, because I want to, in the end, stand up and say ‘thank you’ to my

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dad, who passed away five years ago."

Benson's father, Wayne Lee Benson, was a Southern Baptist pastor who "was a complete civil rights leader before there was any such thing as civil rights," Benson said.

Benson's sculpture, "Our Peace, Follow the Drinking Gourd," consists of seven oak trees in the shape of the Little Dipper constellation, laid out across a circle of 30 boulders. "Follow the Drinking Gourd" was a song slaves would use to teach them how to find and follow the North Star, one of the stars in the Little Dipper, to freedom. ☞

Two students awarded Rotary Scholarships

A Union senior and a recent graduate both have received prestigious Rotary Scholarships for study abroad in the coming year.

Brock Alan Starnes ('09) received a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship for study in New Zealand. Albert L. "Shep" Shepherd was awarded a \$25,000 scholarship through the Jackson Rotary Club for one year of graduate study in Scotland.

"It definitely has given me a direction in which to move in after graduation," said Shepherd, who will graduate in May with a bachelor's degree in biblical languages. "It seems like God has given me a great opportunity and is kind of directing my steps with it."

Shepherd plans to pursue either a one-year Master of Theology degree or a one-year master's degree in literature, which would focus on biblical literature.

Starnes graduated from Union's McAfee School of Business Administration with a bachelor's degree in management. He plans to start his course work in early 2011 at Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand. He will pursue a master's degree in business development.

"A lot of my interest is in entrepreneurial work and allowing people who have ideas to cultivate them and get them to market," Starnes said. "New Zealand passed laws 30 years ago encouraging people to start small businesses." ☞

Metaxas discusses his new Bonhoeffer biography

New York Times bestselling author Eric Metaxas

made presentations on the Union campus about using humor to share the gospel and on his new biography of German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer.



ultimately executed by Hitler's regime in 1945.

"Eric Metaxas was one of the most popular speakers I have ever brought to Union University," said Greg Thornbury, dean of the school of Christian

studies. "His rapier wit, compelling content, and communication skills resonated widely across the campus with faculty, staff, and especially students. Weeks after his chapel address, people were still talking about Eric."

Metaxas is the author of such books as *Amazing Grace: William Wilberforce and the Heroic Campaign to End Slavery*, and the *Everything You Always Wanted to Know About God* series. ☞

Metaxas also drew attention from students and faculty for his chapel address about "Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy," which was released shortly after his Union visit in late March. Bonhoeffer stood in opposition to Nazi policies and was

studies. "His rapier wit, compelling content, and communication skills resonated widely across the campus with faculty, staff, and especially students. Weeks after his chapel address, people were still talking about Eric."

Union enrollment tops 4,000 for first time



enrollment is also up 4.3 percent from this time one year ago.

Of the undergraduate students, a record-high 545 are traditional undergraduate freshmen. This year's enrollment includes more than 1,200 new students in all of Union's various programs.

The fall figure represents a 105 percent increase over the 1,972 students enrolled in the fall of 1996, when Union University President David S. Dockery began his tenure.

The non-duplicating headcount also hit a record-high of 4,675. That number includes the total number of students enrolled for any classes during a given year, and no student in any program is counted more than once. ☞

Enrollment at Union University continues to set records.

The fall semester enrollment of 4,050 students was a 7.4 percent jump from the previous year and the 12th straight year for an enrollment increase at the University. Spring



Union receives national attention for "an unusual commitment to undergraduate teaching."

Union rankings reflect national reputation

Union University has been named one of the nation's top universities committed to teaching undergraduate students in the annual rankings of colleges and universities by *U.S. News & World Report*.

Overall, Union was named one of the South's top tier universities for the 13th straight year, moving up four places to 16th in the South in the "Universities-Master's" category – the highest Union has ever been ranked. The category includes those institutions that provide a full range of undergraduate programs and master's programs and includes 572 universities ranked within four geographic areas – North, South, Midwest and West.

Union ranked second in the South in the "Universities-Master's" category for colleges and universities "where the faculty has an unusual commitment to undergraduate teaching." Only 80 schools in the nation were recognized for this honor.

For a second consecutive year, the magazine ranked Union as one of the top "Up-and-Coming Schools" in the

nation. The magazine ranked Union fourth in the South – up one spot from last year – in the "Universities-Master's" category among schools that

"have recently made the most promising and innovative changes in academics, faculty, students, campus, or facilities." Only 77 schools in the nation were designated as "Up-and-Coming Schools."

Union was also recently recognized by *Forbes* in its second annual "America's Best Colleges" rankings.

Of the 4,000 colleges and universities in the country, *Forbes* selected 600 undergraduate institutions based on the quality of the education they provide, and how much their students achieve. Union ranked 278th on the *Forbes* list -- up four places from last year -- and was one of only two institutions in Tennessee west of Nashville, along with Rhodes College, selected for inclusion.

The *U.S. News* and *Forbes* rankings follow Union's recent designation by *The Princeton Review* as one of the Best Southeastern Colleges. 🏠



Union community focuses on water concerns



Union dual-enrollment student Joshua Guthrie had a bold goal in mind.

In his first year organizing Dollar for a Drink, his charity raised about \$8,000 to dig a well in Sudan. Such a well can mean the difference between life and death in villages where fresh water is in short supply. As the name of the organization implies, his idea was for people to give up making one bottled water purchase in lieu of a donation.

In fall 2009, 17-year-old Guthrie decided to raise money for three new wells – which required about \$24,000.

In his second year promoting Dollar for a Drink, he announced receipts of \$28,000. Mission accomplished.

He says the money remaining after digging three wells this year will be rolled into next year's fund.

But Guthrie is not the only Unionite with a passion for providing clean water in developing countries.

Just a few days after leading the Lady Bulldogs to an NAIA national championship, Head Coach Mark Campbell was on his way to India with an organization called Neverthirst. The non-profit organization works on two continents, partnering with churches and volunteers to provide fresh drinking water.

Because wells in India are highly susceptible to contamination from livestock, Campbell says an effort is underway to dig deeper. But well digging in India still is relatively inexpensive. A well that might cost \$8,000 to dig in Sudan can cost as little as \$2,500 in India.

It's a bargain that Campbell speaks of with enthusiasm and hope.

"Entire villages – several hundred people – can have future access to clean water at that price." 🏠



Union dedicates new continuing studies center



Union has dedicated a new off-campus facility that affords the University additional classroom and office space.

The new Center for Continuing and Professional Studies was dedicated at a March ceremony. The 21,000 square-foot facility is located at 1938 Emporium Drive, about a mile from the Jackson campus.

"We are so excited about our new facility," said Beverly Absher, chair of Union's Continuing Studies Department. "We are excited about the way that God will use us and this new space as we continue our mission of educating and equipping adult students for service to church and society."

"We reached a point where there was just no more space on campus to renovate to create office space or classroom space," said Charles Fowler, Union's senior vice president for university relations. "So we began exploring properties around town that would allow some office on campus to move off campus and create additional space on our main campus."

The building was once a Circuit City outlet and had been vacant for almost four years. Union renovated the 21,000-square-foot building and is using all of the former retail space for its continuing studies department. The former warehouse space will be used for future growth, either for continuing studies or some other program. ☞

Keep up with the latest news from Union at www.uu.edu/news

LifeWay president Rainer speaks at commencement

Thom Rainer, president of LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville, Tenn., was chosen to speak at Union University's 185th annual spring commencement ceremony May 22.

"Thom Rainer is one of the most respected leaders in Baptist life and the broader evangelical world," Union University President David S. Dockery said. "We are pleased to call him a friend of Union University. His recent work on the millennial generation has received national attention, and thus it is a wonderful and timely thing that Dr. Rainer can join us for such a significant occasion."



Prior to beginning his leadership role with LifeWay in 2006, Rainer served as dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth at Southern Baptist Theological

Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He is the author or co-author of 18 books, including such titles as *Simple Life*, *Essential Church*, *Raising Dad* and *Simple Church*.

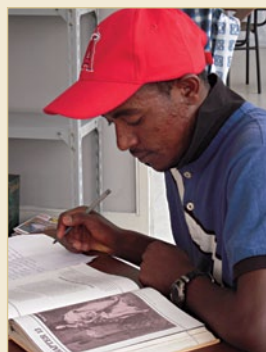
Union finished the 2009-10 academic year with 1,130 graduates, the most in university history. Approximately 530 graduated May 22, with another 600 receiving degrees in the August and December ceremonies. ☞

Ryan Center drive benefits Ethiopian library

More than 400 books line the shelves of a new library in Ethiopia as a result of a book drive led by the Ryan Center for Biblical Studies.

Donated by families and individuals from the Jackson community, the book topics range from Bible study and theology to elementary education and juvenile fiction.

Partners of Indigenous Outreach International, a local ministry, established the Tinsae Library in Addis



Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia, to serve as an English library for the public.

Brian Denker, assistant director of the Ryan Center for Biblical Studies, said Ethiopian children learn English in school and many adults speak English, but until now the capital did not

have an English library. He traveled to Ethiopia in January.

"The response over there has been great," Denker said. ☞



Tebow keynotes second Roy L. White Golf & Gala

Courage to stand alone, a willingness to serve others and the ability to finish strong are three components to a life of significance and purpose, according to Heisman Trophy Winner Tim Tebow.

"No one's ever really done anything significant when they've been with the pack," Tebow said during his keynote address at Union University's second annual Roy L. White Legacy Golf and Gala. "They've had to stand alone to do something significant."

"The second annual Roy L. White Legacy Golf and Gala was a tremendous event and I believe everyone left encouraged and inspired by Tim Tebow's remarks," said Charles Fowler, Union's senior vice president for university relations. "The entire Union family is grateful for the ongoing



support of Dr. Roy and Martha White to help advance our Christ-centered mission. This event would not have been possible without them."

In addition to the Whites, other sponsors of the event included Brasfield Construction, First Tennessee Bank, Farmers and Merchants Bank, The Dement Family and Carl and Alice Kirkland. 🏠

Pharmacy student honored in national competition



Union University pharmacy student Erica Rogers was first runner-up in the American Pharmacists Association's National

Patient Counseling Competition March 15 in Washington, D.C.

This marks the first year that Union has entered the competition, which is designed to encourage student pharmacists in their efforts toward becoming better patient educators, according to the American Pharmacists Association.

"Erica has definitely set a high bar and put Union University's School of

Pharmacy on the national academic map by illustrating our serious commitment to excellence in academics and patient care," said Sheila Mitchell, dean of Union's School of Pharmacy. "This is of great significance to us and is a reflection and confirmation of the hard work of this outstanding and tireless faculty and staff, who are dedicated to selecting and teaching quality students to become outstanding pharmacists."

Rogers, a second-year pharmacy student, outperformed many fourth-year students from other institutions. Of the 115 schools represented at the national competition, Union was the only Tennessee school in the top 10 and one of only four in the southeast region. 🏠

Memphis professor headlines Black History Month programs

Union University held its third annual Black History Month program Feb. 12, featuring Jeff Wilson from the University of Memphis as the keynote speaker.



The program's theme this year was "Black Collegians: Past, Present and Future." Wilson focused on the challenges and achievements of black collegians and the future of racial diversity in higher education.

The program also included a short presentation by MOSAIC, an organization at Union that reaches out to ethnic minority students, a gospel hymn sung by the MOSAIC Gospel Choir and a violin and piano suite composed by William Grant Still, one of the first black composers of classical music.

In another part of Union's Black History Month emphasis, K. Edward Copeland, senior pastor of New Zion Baptist Church in Rockford, Ill., spoke in chapel. 🏠

Hendersonville campus offers new programs

Union University's Hendersonville campus began offering a Doctor of Education degree program in February.

It is believed to be the first terminal degree program ever offered in Sumner County. Students will be required to complete 60 semester hours in one of two concentrations: school administration or higher education.

The new degree program joins existing Hendersonville programs leading to Master of Christian Studies, Master of Education and Education Specialist degrees.

The first five Hendersonville MCS students have completed degree requirements. As with Germantown graduates, Hendersonville graduates are recognized at Jackson graduation ceremonies.

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"I am so proud of this group of students and what they have accomplished," said Charles Lea, executive director of Union University Hendersonville. "I look forward to the continued success of our students and growth of our programs." 📖

Debate team wins IPDA championship



Union University's debate team concluded its second season of competition by winning the International Public Debate Association tournament at the University of Central Arkansas.

Seventeen teams, mostly from the southeast, competed in the event. Union debate team coach Web Drake said the tournament's winner is considered to be the national champion for the IPDA, one of many debate organizations in which colleges and universities compete. Drake called the win the biggest since Union resumed debate competition two years ago.

"We have only freshmen and sophomores, and we're going up against squads that are primarily seniors," Drake said.

The win was the third tournament victory for Union's debate team this year. For the season, Kylie McDonald finished first and Amanda Bennett was second in Novice Season-Long Sweepstakes competition.

In the fall semester, Union hosted the inaugural Bulldog Classic Debate Tournament. Debate teams from schools in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas were invited to the two-day event. 📖

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David Thomas, professor of history, and Glenae Nora, freshman history major, cut a board to be used for a building project at Green Frog Village during Campus and Community: A Day of Remembrance and Service.

Union receives national honor for community service

For the fourth straight year, Union University has been named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for exemplary service efforts and service to America's communities.

"Serving others is an important way for Union faculty, staff and students to extend the mission and core values of the university," Union President David S. Dockery said. "To once again be included on this honor roll speaks volumes about the entire Union community."

Launched in 2006, the Community Service Honor Roll is the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to service-learning and civic engagement. Union has been named each year of the Honor Roll's existence.

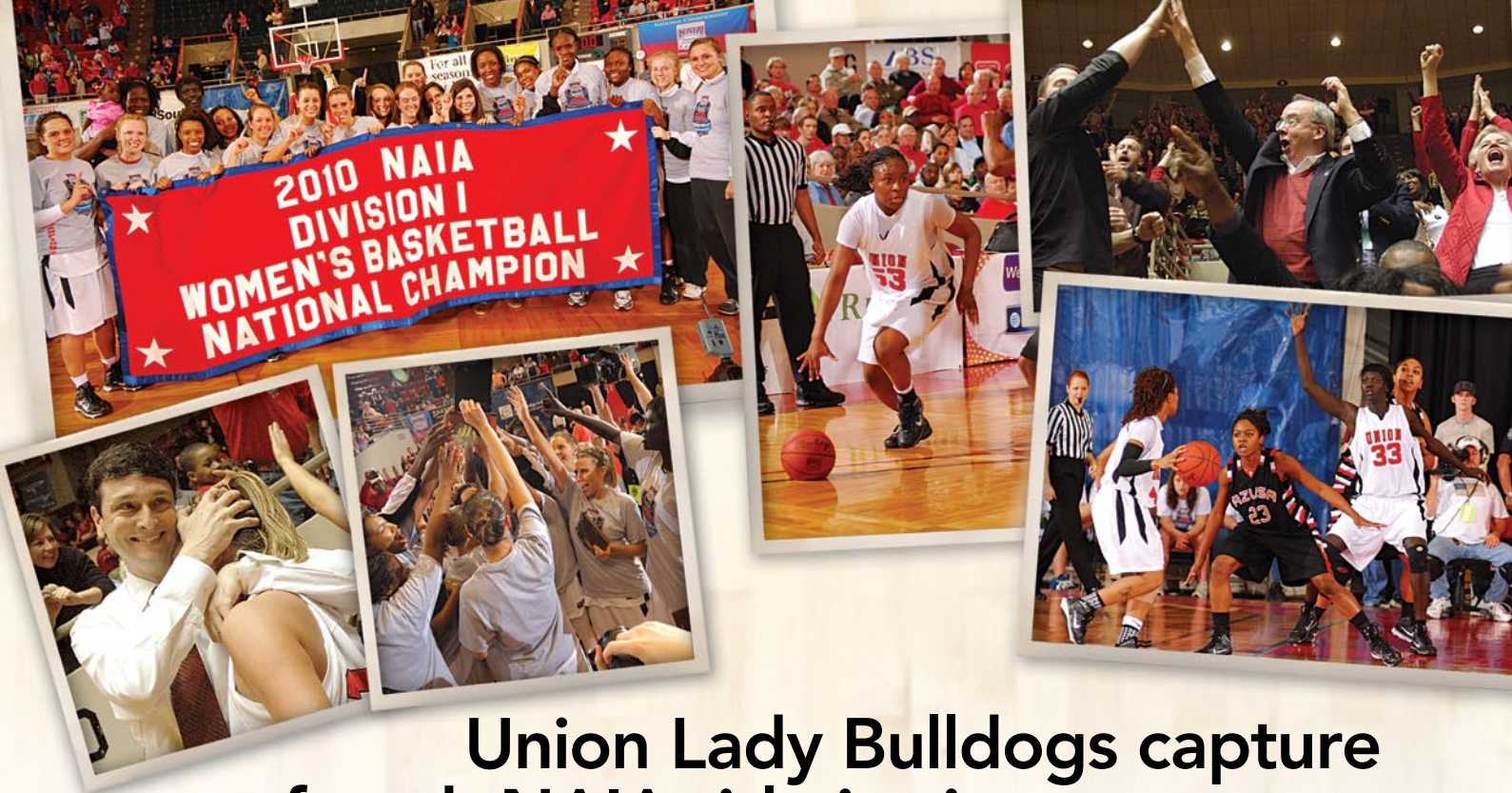
Honorees for the award were chosen based on a series of selection factors including scope and innovation of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities,

incentives for service, and the extent to which the school offers academic service-learning courses.

Union University serves the community in many ways throughout the year. Its largest event is the annual "Campus and Community: A Day of Remembrance and Service," in which the university sends out more than 50 teams across Jackson and West Tennessee for various service projects.

The event began in 2002 as an opportunity for Union to show its appreciation to the community for its assistance after a tornado hit the campus that year and caused about \$2 million in damage. But it has taken on even greater significance following the 2008 tornado that caused more than \$40 million in damage to the campus, when the Jackson and West Tennessee communities rallied to Union's aid.

More than 900 students, faculty and staff participated in the event in 2009. 📖



Union Lady Bulldogs capture fourth NAIA title in six years

For the second straight year and the fifth time in school history, the Union Lady Bulldogs have captured the NAIA national championship in women's basketball.

In March, Union defeated Azusa Pacific University 73-65 in the NAIA Division I Women's Basketball National Championship title game at Oman Arena in Jackson.

"As a group, they accomplished so much more than any individual could," Union Coach Mark Campbell said at a campus celebration the following day. "Everybody, whether they believe it or not, longs to be a part of something that's bigger than themselves. That's how I define this team."

The Lady Bulldogs overcame poor perimeter shooting in the first half, when they connected on only 3-of-15 from 3-point range. The shots started falling in the second half, with Kayla Hudson and Zeinab Chan leading Union down the stretch. Hudson sank three key 3-point shots and Chan scored 12 of her team-high 20 points in the second half.

The Lady Bulldogs also survived a strong challenge from Oklahoma City University in the semifinal round, winning 63-61. In that game, senior guard Kaitlin Dudley surpassed Sandra Fitzgerald (1975-79) as the team's all-time leading scorer. Dudley finishes her Union career with 2,385 points.

The 2010 tournament was an NAIA-record 19th straight for Union and the 21st overall. The Lady Bulldogs finish the season 36-2, a year that included a regular season conference championship and a memorable early-season exhibition game against at Vanderbilt.

Union led by as many as 13 points in the first half and went in at halftime with a 30-27 lead. Vanderbilt didn't take its first lead in the game until the 12:21 mark in the second half, but went on a late 20-1 run to win 69-48.

The Lady Bulldogs have scheduled two exhibition games against SEC teams for 2010-11: Tennessee in Knoxville and Vanderbilt in Nashville. 🏀

Championships for men's basketball, cross country and golf

David Niven led men's basketball to national honors in his first year as head coach. The team won conference titles in both regular season and tournament play.

Niven, who had been an assistant coach at Union since 1997, took his 26-7 team to the NAIA national tournament in Kansas City. The Bulldogs were upset 82-79 by Montana Western in the first round. Union ranked 10th in the final NAIA national poll.

Greg Truvillion, a senior forward from Lansing,

Mich., was named NAIA second team All-American. For the season, Truvillion averaged 18.3 points and 9.3 rebounds.

Men's and women's cross country both placed first in their respective TranSouth Conference meets. Union also claimed the top spots individually in each race with Hannah Clardy finishing first on the women's side and Alex Bett taking first in the men's race.

Men's golf captured the 2010 TranSouth conference championship. It's the third TranSouth golf title for Union in the past five years. 🏌️

