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Academic Briefs: News and Notes on Programs, Faculty and Students

February 01, 2009

Archaeology course takes students to Dead Sea site

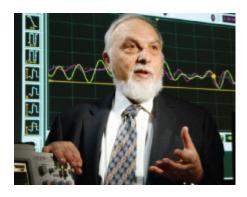
Four Liberty University students worked as "archaeologists in training" in Israel Dec. 5-23 under the supervision of Dr. Randall Price, Director of Excavations and Executive Director of LU's new Center for Judaic Studies.

Students Nathan LeMaster, David Sherret, Katelyn Thurston and Emilee Price traveled with Price and his wife, Beverlee, to learn about and perform land excavations at the 2,000-year-old remains of the historic Qumran Plateau, a site situated beside the Dead Sea, as part of an LU Field Archaeology course.

Liberty's group was part of a larger team that is now in its sixth season (2002-08) uncovering the ruins of the Qumran Community, believed to have once been inhabited by a Jewish sect that held a strict interpretation of the Scriptures and looked for the coming of the Messiah and the end of the age.

Most scholars believe this community produced and preserved the famous Dead Sea Scrolls, many of which were hidden in caves carved in the plateau where the students did their digging.

School of Engineering wins \$113,000 research grant



The School of Engineering and Computational Sciences (SECS) has been awarded a \$113,000 contract by the Center for Advanced Engineering Research (CAER) to investigate vulnerabilities of certain communications systems in an unfriendly electromagnetic environment.

The work was awarded in support of a local high-technology engineering company, in part to help stimulate the local Lynchburg economy. The research is expected to last one year and, if successful, could result in several new jobs in the area. The work will also help contribute to national security, a particular emphasis of research at LU's SECS.

Professor Michael Maiuzzo will lead the project, and Dean Dr. Ron Sones and electrical engineering students will contribute support on this funded research.

Church Planting Emphasis Week a big success

The Liberty Center for Church Planting hosted "Storm the Gates" Church Planting Emphasis Week Nov. 5-8.

Church planters spoke in numerous classes and in convocation. Students were given opportunities to sign up for summer ministry internships in more than 20 states. Three "Next Church" conferences were also held.

Since the Center for Church Planting was created in July 2006, the number of churches planted out of Liberty University has doubled each year, with more than 40 new churches planted in 2008.

The Center for Ministry Training said its goal is to plant 500 Liberty churches within the next few years and to position Liberty as the primary site to resource church planters.

The next Church Planting Emphasis week is scheduled for Feb. 27 through March 4, 2009.

VCAR major wins computer game design contest

Dave Lee, a junior majoring in Visual Communication Arts, won first place in an international computer game design competition held by Massive Entertainment, a leading producer of games and interactive entertainment software.

The Malmo, Sweden, company, in conjunction with sponsor nVidia, announced an international 3D map design competition in April. The goal was to use Massive Entertainment's design tools and software kit to create a multiplayer map for its World in Conflict game. Lee won the grand prize of \$1,000 and two nVidia 9800 GTX graphics cards.

Lee works in Resident Recruitment at Liberty and has contributed to the Digital Campus project on libertyu.com. He hopes to pursue a career in game development and 3D graphic design.