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Class Notes: Updates from LU alumni

Liberty University

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Class Notes: Updates from LU alumni

December 01, 2008

Class of 1977

In July, **Greg Odell**, 55, won five gold medals at the 2008 Minnesota Senior Games. His win qualifies him to attend the 2009 National Senior Games in San Francisco in August. Odell, who resides in Alexandria, Minn., lost nearly 100 pounds at the age of 51. He graduated with a B.A. in Theology and was a member of the debate team. Contact Odell at nothing-2-it@hotmail.com.

Class of 1978

John E. Carper married Bernice Linville at age 50 on Jan. 7, 2006. He spent 20 years in the social work field, with three years as an employee of the state of West Virginia. He stayed active in the local church, teaching classes to children and teens and preaching occasionally in church and a homeless shelter. In 2003, he began work as a case manager for Union Mission Ministries, helping convert the facility to a home for pregnant women or women with minors in their custody. UMM is the largest food distribution center in West Virginia. In fall 2005, Carper was promoted to Director of Family Services. Carper and his wife are currently active in the ministry of River Ridge Church in Charleston.

Class of 1983

Chrisy Beeler will be working at Brookneal and Gladys Elementary schools in Brookneal and Gladys, Va., for the 2008-09 school year as the Special Education Resource teacher. Beeler has been in the education field for 26 years, teaching in Virginia and Florida. Beeler has two children, Faith and Adam.

Class of 1985

The Rev. **Daren Drzymala** recently published a book titled "Biblical Christianity." Drzymala resides in Buffalo, N.Y.

Class of 1993

In November 2007, **Paul Heckman** was named General Manager for the new Hilton Garden Inn at 4025 Wards Road in Lynchburg, Va. Heckman has 15 years experience in Hotel Management and Marketing in the Lynchburg area. He began his hospitality career in 1990 as a desk clerk while attending Liberty. He was employed as a dishwasher, desk clerk and front desk manager before being hired as a General Manager in 1998 with Southeast Hotel. The 126-room Hilton Garden Inn located below Liberty's campus opened in June 2008. Complete with restaurant, bar and 4,000 square feet of meeting room space, the hotel honors discounts to anyone associated with Liberty University or Thomas Road Baptist Church.

Class of 1997

Ron Leporati, PGA, was named Head Golf Professional at Bedford Springs Resort in Bedford, Penn., in April 2007. Since the resort opened in July of the same year, Leporati has played golf with legendary professional Arnold Palmer and scored his first Hole-in-One while playing golf with Sports Illustrated Golf Writer Gary Van Sickle. Leporati and his wife, Gina (Tuckwiller, '98), have two daughters, Kennedy and Maria, and a son, Ronnie. The family has relocated to Central Pennsylvania from Northern Virginia.

Class of 2000

Ben Martin was named head football coach of the Appomattox County, Va., Raiders in June. Martin, a 1995 Liberty Christian Academy graduate, played for Liberty University's Flames football under Sam Rutigliano for four years and coached the Amherst, Va., Lancers' offensive line for four seasons.

Class of 2004

Daveta J. Saunders recently published her first book, "Shades of Identity: The Effects of African American Children Skin Complexions in Television Commercials on the Self-Perception of African American Children." Saunders graduated from Liberty in 2004 with a B.S. in Communications and in 2007 with a M.A. in Communications. She currently works at Liberty as an associate director in the Center for Multicultural Enrichment where she oversees an intercultural competency program and a peer mentoring program. On Friday nights, Saunders, also known as "Lil Preacher," hosts a Christian rap, reggae and radio show called, "The TakeOva," on LU's campus station 90.9 The Light.

Class of 2005

Jeaneva Smith, pastor and counselor for the Calvary Grace Faith Temple Inc., has been recognized by Cambridge Who's Who for showing dedication, leadership and excellence in all aspects of religious services. In 2005, Smith graduated with a B.A. in Biblical Study from Liberty. She holds an Ordination Certificate and is a member of the Ministry of Alliance, the Order of the Eastern Star and the Board of the Elderly for Morris Cerullo World Evangelism.

Kristin Sutton, 25, a staff assistant for Rep. Tim Walberg (R-Mich.) in Washington, D.C., was named one of the 50 Most Beautiful people by congressional newspaper "The Hill." The Chesapeake, Va., native graduated from Liberty University in 2005.

Miscellaneous Announcements

Tad Agoglia ('98), who started The First Response Team in 2007 to provide help to victims of natural disasters, has been nominated for [CNN's Hero of the Year award](#). Agoglia is one of the top 10 people selected by CNN's Blue Ribbon panel for their outstanding achievements. The Hero of the Year will be announced on Thanksgiving night.

A Youth Aflame Reunion will be held in Lynchburg, Va., Sept. 10-12, 2009. This event is open to anyone who traveled with any of the singing teams — Youth Aflame Choir, All God's Children, The Chorale, Young Believers, Youth Aflame Singers, SALT — plus anyone who worked under the leadership of Gordon Luff in any capacity. For more information, call Sheila Colclasure at (972) 484-2903 or e-mail larrysheila@sbcglobal.net.

Attention alumni: Send us your submissions.

email: tmaxwell@liberty.edu

fax:(434) 582-7710

mail: 1971 University Blvd.,Lynchburg, VA 24502

note: Please include a headshot in high resolution (300 dpi) JPEG format with your submissions.