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commitment to strong academics**

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GREAT EXPECTATIONS: History professor's gift will bolster LU's commitment to strong academics

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Dr. Cline Hall has taught at Liberty University since 1977. As one of the school's long-time history professors, he has spent much of his life looking back into our country's past.

But people may not know that Hall can also look into the future.

Not literally, of course, but he can be assured that his major gift to the university today will help it continue to offer quality Christian education for generations to come.

Hall, along with his wife, Beverly, has taken out a life insurance policy on both of their lives that will leave the school with more than \$1.1 million. The money will be used to fund a chair in the history department, specifically for teaching courses in Southern history.

"I always wanted to do something for the school," Cline Hall said. "I guess what really set it off was the fact that when Dr. [Jerry] Falwell died, he had a lot of insurance policies that helped to pay off debt, and that sort of raised an idea in my own mind: why couldn't we do something similar?"

The Halls are one of several Liberty faculty and staff who have decided to give back to the place where they have spent countless hours investing in the lives of young people, training "Champions for Christ."

"I think you need to put your money where your passion is, and our passion is toward the kingdom of God, dealing with all kinds of people. And it's nice to know after you're gone, your money's still working for that cause," said Beverly Hall, who has worked in the education department and at the university bookstore.

To achieve their goal of leaving a lasting legacy at Liberty, the Halls worked with their insurance agent, financial advisor, attorney, and Liberty's Planned Giving Department, which offers many options for investing in the future of the university.

Cline Hall said he had a great experience working with Tom Arnold, director of LU's Planned Giving Department, who guided him through the process. Taking out the life insurance policy is one of the easiest — and even less expensive — ways to make a major impact on the school's future, Hall said.

“It doesn't take a person a lot of money or means, in a sense, if you do it the way we did it, as an insurance policy on your life,” Cline Hall said. “Obviously it's delayed as to when the money will come to the school, but that — I hate to say it this way — in the long run, is the cheapest way to contribute to the school. And another advantage is if the school holds the policy, I pay the premiums, but that's tax-deductible to me so far as a gift to the institution, so that helps in that way too.”

Cline Hall has taught a full load of courses in the past, including Survey of American History II, American Colonial History, The Ante-Bellum South and The New South (two-semester sequence), Civil War and Reconstruction, and History of Immigration, but plans to only teach two upper-level classes each semester this coming year as he eases into full retirement.

“He's passed retirement age, but the Lord has been good to him health-wise and blessed him a whole lot, so that's why he's been teaching up to this time,” said his wife.

Beverly Hall said she knows her husband will miss teaching when that day comes.

“I know he will because he's a teacher at heart ... and he's taken kids on field trips; that takes extra effort past the classroom. He's done a lot of that.”

Hall has seen the history department at Liberty grow, having doubled its number of history professors in the past four years. He has seen his students go on to law school, work for the government, and earn successful research jobs for public history firms and businesses.

Hall is co-director of the Civil War Seminar held each spring at Liberty University and is on the board of directors for the new National Civil War Chaplains Museum located at Liberty.

When the Halls are not on the LU campus or at Thomas Road Baptist Church, where they sing in the choir and help with the nursing home ministry, they are managing the Dairy Queen on Timberlake Road in Lynchburg, Va., along with their son and daughter-in-law. The Halls have owned the popular ice cream and fast food shop since 1991.

The couple also enjoys traveling across the globe and recently returned from a trip to Greece and Israel in May. They have been to England, Germany, Switzerland, Mexico, Bahamas and on a missionary trip to Haiti.

Where to next? Possibly to Italy with the history department's International Studies Program and something "kinda fun," Beverly Hall said: a Disney cruise with her oldest grandson who will graduate from Liberty Christian Academy in the spring. The Halls have one son and three grandsons, who attend LCA.