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February/March 2009

2009

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## News Briefs: University happenings

Liberty University

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### Recommended Citation

Liberty University, "News Briefs: University happenings" (2009). *February/March 2009*. 12.  
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## News Briefs: University happenings

February 01, 2009

### **Liberty University website, online magazine redesigned**

In the coming months, visitors to Liberty University's homepage, [www.liberty.edu](http://www.liberty.edu), will see a new look. The website will be redesigned to allow easier access to information on all areas of the university and has been tailored to a broader, global audience.

Current Liberty students, faculty and staff will have separate links to view news and announcements that apply to them. Alumni and parents will also find prominent links to information especially for them.

A new addition to the website will be Liberty's News and Events page, which will be updated daily with photographs and stories of happenings on the LU campus. The page will also include campus videos, such as "90 Seconds Around Liberty," photo galleries and archives.

A new online version of the Liberty Journal will also debut this year. In addition to stories and photographs from the print publication, the new site will include Web Exclusives, highlighting more special feature stories about the LU community.

### **Liberty's Winterfest rings in the New Year**



Students and church groups from across the country gathered in Liberty University's Vines Center on Dec. 30 - Jan. 1 for Winterfest 2008, the university's annual New Year's celebration. Artists on stage during the event included Jeremy Camp, Hawk Nelson, Skillet, Disciple, Grits, Stellar Kart, Article One, The Afters and DecembeRadio. Attendees also heard impactful messages from dynamic speakers such as Clayton King, David Nasser and the Rev. Eric Timm.

Apart from Christian speakers and musicians, illusionist Brock Gill wowed the audience with his amazing tricks and escapes; acrobat Brent Longenecker displayed his incredible balancing and tumbling techniques, and ventriloquist Taylor Mason provided comic relief.

Since 2002, Winterfest has entertained thousands of spectators with top Christian artists and speakers, sharing the message of Jesus Christ while ringing in the New Year.

### **Liberty's accreditation status reaffirmed**

In early December, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges accepted the university's monitoring report on accreditation that involved identifying college-level competencies and the extent to which LU graduates have attained them. LU's accreditation is affirmed through 2016.

SACS-COC is the accrediting agency for the 11-state southern region of the United States. "We are so proud of the faculty, staff and students who worked tirelessly over the last year to attain this result," Chancellor Jerry Falwell, Jr. said.

### **Students treated to kettle corn during finals week**



Students received a special gift during finals week of fall semester from Chancellor Jerry Falwell, Jr. and his wife, Becki. Free bags of kettle corn were

distributed outside the Arthur S. DeMoss Learning Center. Falwell, Jr. and his wife, Becki. Free bags of kettle corn were distributed outside the Arthur S. DeMoss Learning Center. The Falwells wanted to show their appreciation for Liberty's students, who were taking exams and preparing to head home for the holidays.

Last spring the Falwells treated LU students to free ice cream during finals week. Becki, who enjoys the taste of kettle corn herself, said students can likely look forward to more finals week freebies in semesters to come. "Now that we've done it twice, I think it will be expected," she said. "I think it might become a tradition."

## **Liberty announces new publishing company**

Liberty has announced the establishment of Liberty University Press, a full-service publishing company. The Lynchburg-based production team includes award-winning designers with more than 70 years of combined experience in the publishing field.

Liberty University Press publications will be available through all of the major distribution channels, such as Ingram, Spring Arbor Distributors, Amazon.com and BarnesAndNoble.com, to name a few.

Liberty University Provost Dr. Boyd C. Rist stated, "Liberty University Press offers University faculty, as well as authors in the wider evangelical community, the opportunity to write on a wide array of subjects that expand the frontiers of knowledge for both scholarly and general audiences. This is a significant milestone in the development of Liberty University."

## **Senior featured in Washington Post**



Claire Ayendi, a senior and president of the College Republicans, was featured on the front page of the Oct. 31 "Washington Post" in an article "God, Country and McCain," accompanied by a photo of her gathering McCain campaign materials. The subhead reads: "At Liberty University, Republican Students Campaign Hard, Fearing a New Era of Liberal Activism if Obama Prevails."

Ayendi said she was surprised to be contacted by the Post, which sent a reporter and photographer to follow her around campus for one whole day. "A lot of people who are campaigning are doing the exact same thing, so it was surprising [they chose me]. It was fun. It was a good opportunity," she said.

The article talks about her positions on the issues and energizing the youth vote at a school that was able to register more than 80 percent of its students to vote and a record number to vote in Virginia.

## **Career Center offers D.C. internships**

Liberty University's Washington Semester Internship Program is now under the management of Liberty's Career Center, but the goal remains the same: to train and equip young leaders by providing students with practical training and educational opportunities in and around the nation's capital.

According to Director Carrie Barnhouse, participants will gain academic internship credit as well as valuable life skills.

"Our goal is to see students learn and grow through experiential education opportunities provided in D.C.," she said. "Our chancellor has often referred to these students as being on the front lines. They are fighting the cultural war by conquering the capital."

In the spring, Liberty students participated in internships at the White House, Concerned Women for America headquarters and the U.S. District Attorney's Office. More than 100 students have participated in this program during the past three years and nearly half of them have been offered jobs.

## **Writers encouraged**



Liberty University's eighth biannual Writers Conference opened Oct. 31 with a reception in DeMoss Learning Center and a keynote address by Jerry Jenkins, co-author with Tim LaHaye of the "Left Behind" series. With the goal of encouraging students and the community to hone in on their writing talents, the conference attracted everyone from seasoned authors to young hopefuls, including Liberty students and professors.

Jenkins also spoke to the student body at the Friday morning convocation.

The conference included workshops on techniques of writing, how to be published and how to encourage students to write. Jenkins also held a "Thick-skinned Manuscript Critique" session.

Notable authors Carole Gift Page and Bill Myers also conducted sessions. Other speakers included Liberty's own Jim Zabloski, Don Alban, Janice DeLong, Beth Ackerman and Jamaica

Conner. The conference came to a close Saturday night with book signings by Jenkins, Myers and Page.

## **Jerry Falwell Museum adds new exhibit**



A storage room at the Jerry Falwell Museum, located off the DeMoss Hall Grand Lobby, has been transformed into a timeline tribute to Falwell's life. The project was completed in time for Alumni Weekend.

On the wall, a large timeline mural depicts the changes made to the campus over the years. Below the mural is a timeline of documents, newspaper articles and memos that tell the story of Falwell throughout the years. Four large conference tables with glass tops continue the theme of timelines as each table is categorized by decade with more memorabilia spread underneath the glass.

A mural of Falwell praying over the mountain was also added to the room, along with a large world map. Color-coded pushpins are provided for alumni to place on the map to show where they are currently working and serving the Lord.

## **Liberty joins Cans Across America**

The Liberty University community participated in the nationwide Cans Across America campaign on Nov. 12, collecting a total of 6,207 pounds to be distributed to families in need.

Liberty came in eighth in the nation for most cans collected in the campaign sponsored by Sodexo, which provides food services at more than 400 colleges and universities.

Liberty's collection was delivered to the Lynchburg Daily Bread, a non-profit organization that provides more than 400,000 meals a year to the needy in the Lynchburg community.

## **Talkin' turkey: Seminary spars with law school**



The First Annual Seminary-Law School Turkey Bowl charity flag football game was held at Williams Stadium on Nov. 1. School of Law Dean Mat Staver was 1 for 2 on field goal attempts. Dr. Ergun Caner, Seminary dean, played a wide variety of positions: quarterback, lineman, and even field goal kicker (0-1). The final score was Seminary 32, Law School 19.

The real winners this day were the clients of the Liberty Godparent Home. Spectators and players donated more than \$700 to the Godparent Home.

### **Financial Aid reaches out with new video and Spanish site**

Spanish speaking students and their parents can now tune in to Financial Aid TV to find out answers to financial aid questions in Spanish.

Liberty recently began partnering with FATV to provide [online video counseling](#) in a YouTube format.

Spanish resources are also available on Liberty's new Financial Aid web page in Spanish (go to [www.liberty.edu/financialaid](http://www.liberty.edu/financialaid)). The site helps Spanish-speaking parents of dependent students navigate the Financial Aid landscape, offering insight on loan details, federal guidelines and completing FAFSA paperwork.

Liberty's Spanish speaking population, which includes more than 300 students on campus and 836 online, hails from the United States and Puerto Rico and at least 12 other countries, including Mexico, Argentina and Spain.

### **Chancellor Falwell awards scholarship to kindergartener**



Most kindergarteners are not yet thinking about their college education, but Simon Nolen from Appomattox Primary School in Appomattox, Va., is way ahead of the game. During an American Red Cross “Quarters That Care Campaign,” Simon’s name was drawn for the first place prize in a Red Cross student giveaway - a four year scholarship to Liberty University worth nearly \$60,000.

Liberty Chancellor Jerry Falwell, Jr. and wife, Becki, presented the scholarship to Simon, his parents, Misty and Thomas Nolen, and extended family at a school-wide assembly on December 17. During the assembly students sang Christmas carols and heard from American Red Cross representative Melissa Waugh. Five different Virginia school districts participated in the campaign — Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, Campbell and Lynchburg.

"With all you students together we were able to raise over \$16,000," Waugh said. "I'm here to give you a big thank you." Waugh also thanked Chancellor Falwell, Becki and Liberty University for providing the first place prize. Falwell said an injury he suffered from two years ago, which resulted in a lot of blood loss, made him even more appreciative of the work that the Red Cross does in the community.

### **Scaremare still going strong after 35 years**

Scaremare has thrilled and chilled more than 300,000 visitors since its inception in 1972, with more than 23,500 taking the spooky tour over three weekends in October this year.

Operating the “House of Death,” currently located on Carroll Avenue in Lynchburg, Va., takes thousands of volunteer hours and a cast of more than 200 Liberty University students.