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News Briefs

October 01, 2009 | University Advancement Staff

LIBERTY HIGHLIGHTED IN 'CHRISTIANITY TODAY'

The growth and success of Liberty University is highlighted in the September issue of "Christianity Today."

The article titled "Liberty Unbound: How Jerry Falwell's ambitious sons have led the Lynchburg university to financial success and a burgeoning student body," tells how the 39-year-old school is on firm financial ground despite financial struggles in the past and how new amenities and academic improvements are bolstering enrollment.

The article credits Chancellor Jerry Falwell, Jr., now chancellor, and his "head for business":

"A University of Virginia law school graduate, Jerry Jr. is foremost a fiscal manager intent on recruiting quality students to the 39-year-old school that has the largest student body among evangelical colleges."

The article also highlights Liberty's affordable tuition, its generous scholarships and highly respected faculty, along with the success of its young law school.

Falwell said he has received emails and calls from Christian leaders all over country who have read the article.

“Apparently many of them were unaware of how God is blessing this school. ... I guess it was more of a secret than we thought it was,” he said.

[Read the full article](#)

[Read Ben Stein’s musings on his visit to Liberty University in May](#)

RECRUITERS GET THE WORD OUT AT SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVALS



Throughout the summer, teams of LU national recruiters attended Christian music festivals across the country, looking for future LU students.

Summerfest 2009 teams were at Son-fest and Christian Music Day in Charlotte, N.C.; Creation East in Pennsylvania; KingsFest in Richmond, Va.; Spirit Song and Alive Festival in Ohio; Creation West in George, Wash.; Atlanta Fest in Georgia; Awakening in Northern Virginia; and Rock the River in Missouri, Minnesota and Iowa.

Assistant director Danny Corprew loosely describes the music festivals as a “Woodstock for Christian kids.” He said the festivals allow recruiters to reach the target market of high school students en masse and draw a variety of people, including students who may not have had Liberty as one of their top choices.

At the overnight festivals, recruiters often work 12-hour days, operating an information booth and giving 90-second plugs for Liberty on stage between acts. Would-be students who visit the Liberty booth and fill out applications are entered into drawings for a guitar, Nintendo Wii and a Liberty scholarship.

Thousands of students applied to Liberty as a result of this summer recruiting effort.

JONATHAN FALWELL DELIVERS PRAYER FOR LAWMAKERS



The Rev. Jonathan Falwell, senior pastor of Thomas Road Baptist Church, said the opening prayer at the U.S. House of Representatives on July 29.

Falwell was welcomed as the guest chaplain by Rep. Bob Goodlatte, R-6th District.

“It was such an honor,” Falwell said. “I spent a great deal of time praying about the words I would use in my congressional prayer because, above all else, I wanted Christ to be magnified in that place. I prayed that God would direct the steps of the men and women who serve in Congress. I also focused on the admonition from Scripture that ‘righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a reproach to any people’ and asked forgiveness for our sins as a nation.”

After the prayer and Pledge of Allegiance, Goodlatte took the floor and introduced Falwell as the senior pastor of TRBC, “one of the largest churches in America which has a tremendous outreach to the community in Lynchburg, across Virginia, across the nation and indeed across the world, helping people in need.”

He also explained Falwell’s role as Vice Chancellor for Spiritual Affairs at Liberty University, “the world’s largest evangelical Christian university with over 40,000 students both on campus and online.”

Goodlatte said he was honored to call Falwell “a constituent and, most importantly, a dear friend.”

He welcomed Falwell’s wife, Shari, their four children and his mother, Macel Falwell.

Falwell said Goodlatte took them on a “behind the scenes” tour of the Capitol, including climbing to the top of the Capitol dome. They also visited with several lawmakers.

In the afternoon, they met about 25 Liberty students and alumni who are either serving as interns or full-time staffers on Capitol Hill.

“I was greatly encouraged to hear from these young men and women about how God is using them as ‘Young Champions for Christ’ in our nation’s capital,” he said.

LIBERTY WORKING TO BRING WiMAX TO LOCAL AREA

Liberty University is taking the lead in an effort to bring the latest wireless data technology to the Lynchburg community — WiMAX. This wireless wide area network technology will deliver broadband Internet access with faster speeds at greater distances than the latest wireless networks can provide.

Through a partnership with the Virginia School of the Arts in Lynchburg, Liberty has created the Lynchburg Educational Broadband Joint Venture, making it possible for major communications companies to bid on leasing license channels — now owned separately by LU and VSA — and provide WiMAX service to users.

After making appeals to the FCC for two years, Liberty received the green light this summer to operate on a frequency that would make this venture possible.

Liberty administrators say the venture will have wide-ranging effects on the Central Virginia region and its educational institutions.

In early 2008, Appomattox became the first town in Virginia to implement WiMAX and remains the only town with the technology in Central Virginia.

DEMOSSE OWNERS HONORED WITH WALL OF NAMES

The names of thousands of donors were permanently memorialized in a new display on the first floor of the Arthur S. DeMoss Learning Center, near the entrance to Pierre A. Guillermin Library.

The display honors the more than 5,000 donors who supported the expansion of DeMoss to a four-story building, completed in 2000. A fountain was also installed last summer in front of DeMoss to honor the donors.



STUDENT'S SONG CLIMBS BILLBOARD CHART

Two years ago, LU student Travis Doucette composed a song that is now impacting people across the nation.

“God of the Ages” is the title track on the CD that was released Aug. 25 by Charles Billingsley, worship leader at Thomas Road Baptist Church. The song recently hit No. 14 on Billboard’s Christian Inspirational chart.

The song debuted in the spring of 2008 when Exodus, the ministry team Doucette served on, presented it in the school’s weekly convocation with LU Praise. In February 2009, almost a full year after “God of the Ages” was first heard at Liberty, Billingsley decided to make it the title track of his new album.

FRESHMEN FLOCK TO CHANCELLOR'S COOKOUT



Liberty University kicked off the 2009-10 academic year with a bang on Aug. 20. Chancellor Jerry Fallwell, Jr. and wife, Becki, hosted the largest Liberty freshman class on record at Williams Stadium for the annual Chancellor’s Cookout.

After treating the new students to dinner at the stadium, Chancellor Falwell officially welcomed them to Liberty. The students were on campus the past week for Freshman Orientation, prior to the beginning of classes on Aug. 24.

Liberty University Director of Athletics Jeff Barber also welcomed the students and introduced them to the history of Liberty Athletics.

Near the end of the festivities, head football coach Danny Rocco thanked the crowd for their support and introduced them to the football team's freshmen players.

Then came a taste of game day as the football team entered the field from the Liberty Flames tunnel to the cheers of the crowd. The Flames took to the field for their final scrimmage of training camp.

LU DINING INTRODUCES WEB-BASED ORDERING SYSTEM



Liberty University Dining Services is now offering meals at the touch of a screen.

Complete with card readers and receipt printers, Webfood® kiosks at Sub Connection and The Hangar on main campus and at Founders Food Court on Campus North, take orders and act as cashiers, which is helping to decrease lines.

Students can also use the Webfood® system to view nutritional information, meal deals and favorite orders. LU Dining administrators can use it to edit menu items and prices and to track statistics and customer feedback.

Eventually, the kiosks will be integrated into an online ordering service. Students will be able to order and purchase meals from any computer with Internet access, then pick up their orders without having to wait in checkout lines.

LIBERTY JOINS VA'S YELLOW RIBBON PROGRAM

Veterans who qualify to receive the maximum educational benefits under the new Post-9/11 GI Bill can now attend Liberty University tuition-free, thanks to the new Yellow Ribbon Program.

Under the bill, which took effect Aug. 1, a percentage of tuition and fees are covered by Veterans Affairs, based on the amount of time served, up to the highest in-state tuition rate. (Veterans must have served at least 90 days of active duty after Sept. 10, 2001 with an honorable discharge.) Liberty has agreed to split any costs that remain after GI Bill benefits 50/50 with the VA for those who qualify for the maximum benefit.

Under the Post-9/11 GI Bill, qualified residential students receive a basic allowance for housing and a book stipend for up to \$1,000 per year. There are currently 349 LU students using the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

Liberty has awarded 25 students the Yellow Ribbon Scholarship for fall 2009.

CHAPLAINS MUSEUM RELOCATES TO CAMPUS EAST

The National Civil War Chaplains Museum at Liberty University recently moved from its temporary site in DeMoss Hall to the former East Side Market on Campus East beside Doc's Diner, a restaurant that pays tribute to the school's founder, Dr. Jerry Falwell.

The museum exists to educate the public on the role of chaplains, priests, rabbis and religious organizations in the Civil War, as well as to provide a research facility for those studying Civil War chaplaincy. Artifacts include items from both Confederate and Union chaplains.

A grand opening is planned for Dec. 1.

LU PHOTOGRAPHER WINS UPAA HONORS

Senior photographer Les Schofer captures extraordinary sights around campus year-round. Now some of his shots are being recognized by the University Photographers' Association of America, an international organization of 272 professional photographers from 180 colleges. In the UPAA's 2009 competition, Schofer placed first in the Personal Vision category for "Snowscape IV;" "Helicopter over Monogram" took honorable mention.

Liberty's 2009 Football media guide, a collaborative effort by Schofer and senior staff designer Brian Wallace, placed third in the Publication Covers division.

VIDEO PRODUCTION TEAM WINS TELLY AWARDS



Three Liberty University video productions have been recognized at the 30th Annual Telly Awards for excellence and creativity. Liberty University's Center for Advanced Media Productions was awarded three Bronze Telly Awards.

"Through the Decades: The Miracle of Liberty University," a presentation of LU's history available through the Alumni Relations Office, won second place in the History/Biography category for film and video.

"Discover Your Life," a video that promotes Liberty to potential students, placed second in the Recruitment category.

"Fire in the Furnace," featuring the Liberty Flames men's basketball team, was runner-up in the Sports category.

Founded in 1979, the prestigious Telly Awards receives thousands of entries each year from around the world. Pieces are judged by the Silver Telly Council, a panel of 350 top production and advertisement professionals and past Telly Award winners. Previous winners in the film and video category include ESPN, Warner Bros. and PBS.