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libertyCHAMPION

TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2011 • VOLUME 28 ISSUE 19

sold out spectacular



RUTH BIBBY

SING, ANGEL OF MUSIC — The Liberty Theatre Department has sold more than 10,000 tickets for its production of the Phantom of the Opera. There are 17 scheduled performances, all of which are sold out.

Blaze claims couple

AMANDA SULLIVAN
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Two Liberty University alumni died during a blazing fire that broke out in Princeton Circle West Apartments off Rivermont Avenue on Friday, April 8. The couple, Aaron and Rachel Horton, were graduates of the class of 2007.

The fire started just before 5 a.m., Deputy Fire Marshal of Investigations Thomas Goode said. The cause of the fire is not yet known, he said.

"We have collected materials for the state forensics lab," Goode said. "We won't know for a few weeks."

Several apartments in the complex were affected by the flames, with apartment number 113 having the most damage. Residents of apartments 105 through 124 were required to vacate the premises because of a gas leak. The residents will not return until the carbon monoxide levels dissipate, Goode said.

Red Cross is working to accommodate the displaced families.

More information will be given in a press conference in the coming days, Goode said.

See related story on A7.

♦ SULLIVAN is a graduate assistant.

City behind in rainfall

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2011

AVERAGE

This year, Lynchburg may not be able to live up to its infamous nickname "Drenchburg."

Virginia's rainfall has been almost five inches below average this year. While the lack of rain may currently have students rejoicing as they trade umbrellas and bulky rain boots for flip flops and sunglasses, it may soon have them sweating as the state heads into a drier, hotter summer.

While the winter and spring are usually the state's wettest seasons, that has not been the case this year. According to WSET meteorologist, Matt Ferguson, Virginia has only received 6.11 inches of rain for this season. Ferguson attributes this lack of rainfall to changing weather patterns that originate in the Pacific Ocean.

"It all goes back to the overall weather pattern. This (past) year, probably in the fall, we started transitioning from a normal to a la Niña weather pattern," Ferguson said. "The temperature is well below average in the Pacific Ocean and the colder water

will start to affect the atmosphere and it changes the entire weather pattern across the country."

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), these la Niña weather patterns will cause different effects in different parts of the country. Here in the southeast, it will cause drier weather conditions. Ferguson predicts that even though the dry weather will stick around through the summer, extreme drought is not a concern.

"We're heading into the summer months (in) more of a drier weather pattern," Ferguson said. "But that's

See WEATHER on A3

campus construction



FOURTH FLOOR — Renovations have begun on the fourth floor of DeMoss. The floor was previously unfinished and is anticipated to be completed by the end of next year.

ASHLEY ELIA

DeMoss Hall to receive updates

New plans revealed to complete fourth floor construction

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Renovations continue as Liberty University continues to celebrate 40 years of growth.

The construction that has begun on the fourth floor of DeMoss is a continuation of a series of projects that have been gradually completed over the years.

Although there has been much speculation regarding the recent construction, Chancellor Jerry Falwell Jr. confirmed that the construction on the fourth floor is part of a series of projects

that will continue to usher Liberty into its "new era."

Over the next several years the administration plans to demolish the buildings which house the Teacher Education hall, Science Hall, Performing Arts hall as well as the other halls located behind DeMoss.

"Those buildings were never intended to be permanent," Falwell said. "As the school grew at such an exponential rate we did not have the opportunity to move the programs."

The programs, which are currently located in those

buildings, are temporarily being moved to the fourth floor of DeMoss, with the exception of programs that are to receive freestanding buildings.

The classrooms are being relocated in order to prepare for future plans of a grand yard which will potentially span from the back of DeMoss to the new freestanding library, according to Falwell.

"The construction on the fourth floor of DeMoss is the first phase of the major 'campus facelift,'" Falwell said.

fyi

♦ The third floor of DeMoss was completed in a similar fashion three years ago.

Liberty's director of planning and construction Charles Spence agrees that the renovations will assist in propelling the university

See UPDATES on A8

Refocusing Easter: Why the Lamb?

Lynchburg couple use their business as a ministry opportunity

TAYLOR OVERHULTZ
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Seventeen-month-old Makayla Moylan focuses her hazel eyes on her mother from the entrance to their small kitchen. Her mother, patiently filling plastic lamb molds with melted white chocolate, watches the little girl from the corner of her eye.

"I stay at home and watch Makayla and do this in the morning," Sally Moylan said, sporting an apron adorned with the Australian flag. "We've had some long days, but we occasionally take breaks."

In 2009, Sally completed a chocolatiers course and is now a fully qualified chocolatier.

"I took a class that was offered online for three months, and you had to take pictures of the stuff that you made," Sally said. "At first, I didn't know how legit it would be, but it was really good."

The chocolate lambs are the main ingredient to Joel and Sally Moylan's business, "Why the Lamb." The couple began operating in their home last year.

The business originally began in Australia when Joel's dad, Paul Moylan, decided he wanted to refocus attention to the true meaning of Easter and to provide an alternative to bunnies and eggs, which have nothing to do with Christ's death and resurrection.

"The lamb was used in the Bible in the Old Testament when God chose a lamb as the Passover meal, and when Jesus came in the New Testament, John the Baptist said, 'Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world,'" Joel said. "Jesus came and died on the cross for us and rose again in three days, and that is why we celebrate Easter."

Since 2004, Lamb sales in Australia have



A FAMILY EFFORT — Joel and Sally Moylan share God's truth through chocolate. The business began with Joel's father, Paul Moylan, in Australia.

reached as high as 22,000. Joel and Sally began in 2010 selling 140 units and have already reached approximately 2,400 units this year.

"It's not a moneymaker by any means, but if one person comes to know God through this or even if it just plants a seed, then it's all

worthwhile," Joel said. "We would call it more of a ministry than a business."

After six years of production, "Why the Lamb" Australia broke even this year.

"Sometimes I don't even know how that's happening, but we have God to thank," Joel said. "There is a pretty good chance that we might sell out. We are prepared for at least 3,500."

In one year, "Why the Lamb" America has already grown by more than 1,500 percent with orders still being processed.

"If we grow by that much again, I think 15,000-20,000 wouldn't be unrealistic next year," Joel said.

The lambs come in three flavors — dark, white and milk chocolate — and sell for \$4.99. The lambs are being sold locally at the Liberty University Bookstore, Main Street at Thomas Road Baptist Church, New Life Christian Bookstore and Anderson's Country Market.

The Moylans are also shipping their lambs as far as Alaska.

"When you give someone a chocolate you rarely get turned down," Joel said. "They look at the box and say, 'Huh this is a chocolate lamb,' then turn the box over and that's when they get the Gospel. It's a non-threatening way, but it's not watered down. The message is still there, and it's very clear for people to know why it's a lamb but not only that, why Jesus came and that we can have eternal life through him."

◆ OVERHULTZ is the editor in chief.

New site seeks to help students

Brittany Laird
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With the rapid approach of the end of the semester, students are beginning to think about their fall schedules and what classes they need to take. Along with this comes the time-consuming, frustrating task of determining which books are needed for certain classes but also finding these books at a decent price.

Benjamin Carson and Jonathan Simkin co-founded SwoopThat.com in order to help minimize the stress and insanity involved in the purchasing of textbooks.

"SwoopThat is a leading provider of course search technology and textbook price comparison," according to the website.

SwoopThat's name is rapidly spreading throughout the country. In two months it grew from five schools to the 135 schools currently listed, according to Simkin, CEO of SwoopThat.

Carson, the Vice President of Business Development, Simkin and the other people involved in running SwoopThat have all graduated within the past year. They know firsthand the difficulties of finding reasonably priced textbooks in a short amount of time.

"Professors don't care as much about the price of the book, they just want the educational material," Simkin said. "They might pick a book they think will be good for the class not realizing it is \$150. Then the student doesn't have a choice."

The typical college student pays around \$900 a year on textbooks

alone, according to a recent SwoopThat news release.

"I know this is an area of concern for college students across the country, in this economy," Carson said.

The steps involved in using SwoopThat are simple and easy to remember. Students start by going onto the website and selecting their school and the semester that they are going into. They are then given a list of the school's departments, courses offered by the school and section numbers. Once the class list is entered, students can view the complete list of books required simply by pressing the "Find Books" button.

SwoopThat then searches through sites such as Half.com and Amazon for the best deals on the textbooks listed. The website pro-



PHOTO PROVIDED
SWOOPTHAT — Benjamin Carson (right) and Jonathan Simkin co-founders of 'Swoop That.'

vides information on the textbooks such as the author, the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) and the edition. SwoopThat gives a recommendation based on price and the condition of the books available. The user is also provided with a list of other various editions, prices and book conditions.

The average amount of time it takes to use SwoopThat is between five and 10 minutes, according to Simkin.

"What makes us unique is the

time factor and that it's by course rather than having to do it book by book," Simkin said.

SwoopThat is equipped to search for eBooks as well as books that can be rented for the semester. There is also a feature which allows students who are interested in selling their used books to find the best price that they can get.

◆ LAIRD is a news writer.

Student Government to host Masquerade Gala April 16

Trey Smith
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As the end of the semester, and college itself for some, approaches, many students may be spending their days studying, completing papers or preparing for final presentations. In the hopes of providing one last night of fun and fellowship, the Student Government Association (SGA) is hosting a junior/senior gala.

"We would like to end the semester with night of fun and fellowship with fellow upper-

classmen preparing to graduate," SGA president Bethany Davis said. "This is the first time that SGA is hosting this event — it will also be the first masquerade."

According to Davis, there has not been a junior/senior gala at Liberty University in a couple of years. The entire event will be student run.

The theme for the night is "Phantom of the Opera Masquerade." This month, the theatre department is also performing the play, "Phantom of the Opera."

"In light of the play, Jadan Horyn, Maria Eller and I decided on the Phantom of the Opera theme," Davis said. "We envisioned a ball that celebrated the mystery and romance of the play. It only made sense that we too have masks like the Phantom."

The event is formal and attendees are requested to wear gowns and tuxedos. There will be heavy hors d'oeuvres, dessert and entertainment for the entire evening.

"It will be decorated with red roses, long-stemmed candles, black linen and several Eiffel

Towers," Davis said. "We are also providing masks for every student attending."

The gala will be held Saturday, April 16 in the Williams Stadium Club Pavilion from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Tickets are \$15, with \$5 per ticket being donated to the senior gift, and can be purchased at the Vines Center ticket office or online at ticketreturn.com.

For more information, contact SGA at sga@liberty.edu or find the event page on Facebook.

◆ SMITH is the asst. feature editor.

libertyCHAMPION

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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The Champion encourages community members to submit letters to the editor on any subject. Letters should not exceed 400 words and must be typed and signed. The deadline is 5 p.m. Friday. Letters and columns that appear are the opinion of the author solely, not the Champion editorial board or Liberty University.

All material submitted becomes property of the Champion. The Champion reserves the right to accept, reject or edit any letter received — according to the Champion stylebook, taste and the Liberty University mission statement.

Send letters to:

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Liberty University, Box 2000,
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VISIT THE CHAMPION'S WEBSITE AT WWW.LIBERTYCHAMPION.COM. CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK

Awakening: Remembering freedom

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"Freedom is a fragile thing and is never more than one generation away from extinction."

These words of Ronald Reagan appropriately ushered in the last night of the Awakening, Liberty University's annual political conference featuring more than 60 speakers. The Awakening took place April 8 and 9.

"We're going to pray, we're going to repent, we're going to be educated and we're going to be motivated," Dean of Liberty University's law school Mat Staver said of the event.

The conference began at Convocation on Friday, with a speech from pro-life activist Lila Rose who talked about what she called "the greatest human rights issue that our nation is facing"—abortion.

Rose founded Live Action at the age of 15.

The nonprofit, youth-led organization uses media to inform and mobilize people against the injustices of abortion clinics.

"(Investigative journalism was used to uncover) shock-



FREEDOM — Sonic Flood played at a free concert to close Saturday night's session.

ing findings about what goes on behind the closed doors of Planned Parenthood," Rose said.

The conference continued Friday night with a series of speeches at the main sanctuary of Thomas Road Baptist Church (TRBC). Staver opened the event.

"We have a country that is literally out of control. This country is broken," Staver

said. "It is time in this generation that there is an awakening that transforms this world."

Other speakers included head of the Virginia Tea party and Liberty alumna Jamie Radtke, first Republican woman to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives Michele Bachmann and president, of the National Hispanic Christian Leader-

ship Conference Samuel Rodriguez.

"The speakers are authentic," executive chairman of College Republicans at Liberty University Zach Martin said.

There was also a panel, including Ohio's Secretary of State J. Ken Blackwell, discussing the future of the conservative movement.

"I've been watching people

who have been my heroes for years," College Republicans member Tim Johnson said. "It has been an opportunity to meet some rock stars from political arena which is great."

Activities continued Saturday with break out sessions and presentations from speakers including former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich.

Saturday night's session

concluded the conference with a concert from Sonic Flood.

Throughout the concert, keynote speakers presented their organizations and causes.

Executive producer of the feature-length documentary, "Sex+Money: A National Search for Human Worth," Morgan Perry spoke about the problem of sex trafficking in the U.S.

The CEO of Concerned Women of America, Penny Nance spoke on telling the truth to those in power in the U.S. Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd was honored by Staver with the 2011 Great American Hero award for his stance against pedophilia, and Sonic Flood's lead singer Rick Heil told of his healing from Crohn's Disease.

This year marked the second annual Awakening at Liberty.

"The Awakening is off to a running start," Johnson said. "It has been very heartening to see people come out for this."

◆ **HEAVNER is a news writer.**

WEATHER *jump from A1*

not to say we're expecting a lot of drought because we could have a few hurricanes that could come up through here in the summer or early fall which would easily drop three to six inches of rain in one storm," Ferguson said.

Though it may not cause an extreme drought, the la Niña may create several problems in for Lynchburg residents including where gets its water supply. The Pedlar Reservoir in Amherst County is currently the city's primary water supplier, but if rains cannot replenish the natural stream, the city will have to start getting its water from the James River.

The dry weather will also affect farmers. According to Ferguson, with dry weather comes more sunshine causing higher temperatures. All these factors combined with the dry ground will result in moisture being evaporated out of the soil. This might prove problematic for farmers as they attempt to not only farm, but also nourish their livestock.

While Virginia may not see as much rain as in previous years, Ferguson assures that the state is not at risk for extreme drought.

"While this weather pattern can bring us dry weather and drought right now, extreme drought is not expected," Ferguson said. "But at the same time it's drier than normal and likely to remain that way for the rest of the summer."

◆ **ABRAHAM is a news writer.**

Liberty Champion receives VPA awards

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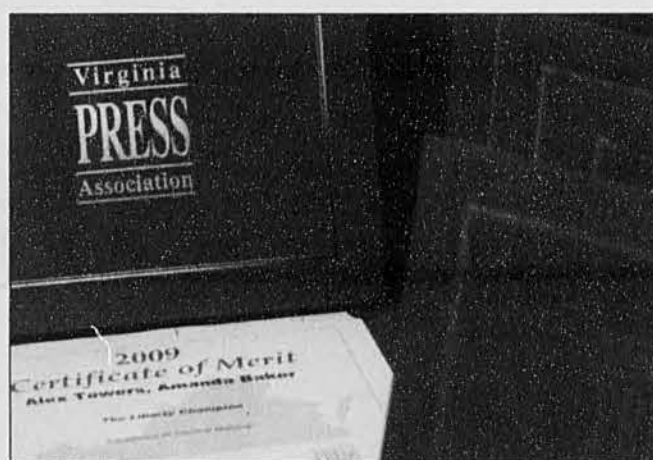
The results from this year's Virginia Press Association(VPA) College Contest placed Liberty University's campus newspaper The Liberty Champion as a winner in three categories.

According to The Champion's editor in chief for the 2009-10 school year Amanda Sullivan, this was the first year the paper entered the competition in a long time.

Champion staff members Sullivan, Emily DeFosse, Chris Mabe and Eli Overbey took first in excellence of general makeup.

"That felt really good," Sullivan said. "It's very nice to be appreciated for all the hard work we've put in and it's good to know we have a quality paper."

The newspaper captured



VIRGINIA PRESS — Liberty Champion awarded for journalistic excellence.

third in excellence of front page, column writing and sports writing.

Nate Brown, who won third in sports writing, was pleasantly shocked by his award.

"I submitted every single article I could, just because I was like, there's got to be one in there they're gonna like," Brown said. "But I really didn't expect to win anything."

The contest is open to all student staff members at any student-produced college paper in Virginia.

Journalists from VPA publications judged 296 entries in 28 categories. Ten college newspapers submitted articles, photographs and presentations printed in campus papers from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2010 to be judged.

"This contest is intended to recognize the people who produce college publications, day after day. The judges are asked to provide comments on each winning entry," VPA Member Services Manager Stephanie D. McCraw said. "This gives the student journalists feedback on their work, which many have said they find useful and appreciate very much."

Sullivan found feedback on newspaper formatting constructive.

"We're working on our headlines," Sullivan said.

Awards for the contest were handed out Saturday, April 9 at the Society of Professional Journalists' Mark of Excellence Award Luncheon. The luncheon was held at The Norfolk Waterside Marriot.

◆ **HEAVNER is a news writer.**

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Fiscal budget causes fiasco

KATIE BELL
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Eleven-fifteen p.m. on a Friday evening is not the most convenient time for breaking national news that affects each and every American, yet it was the earliest President Obama, Speaker Boehner and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid could come up with a deal that would prevent a government shutdown that was scheduled to take place at midnight that Friday.

The crucial national news for that evening was of course the fiscal budget that was six months overdue. The U.S. is currently \$14 trillion in the hole. Continuing any longer without a fiscal budget would have proved to be disastrous.

The federal government's fiscal year begins on October 1. This means that Congress presents the budget for the fiscal year to the American public on that day. Oct. 1, 2010 came and went but there was not a fiscal budget presented.

At the time, Democrats controlled the House and Senate as well as the presidency. With the midterm elections a mere five weeks away they knew that they were going to lose the House to the Republicans. Rather than develop a fiscal budget for the upcoming year the Democrats cashed in their losses and decided to play the martyr card.



BUDGET — National leaders were down to the wire on the 2011 fiscal budget.

The 111th Congress took office in January without a budget. The 111th Congress is comprised of a House of Representatives dominated by the GOP and a Senate still controlled by Democrats. As a result, the responsibility to develop and present a fiscal budget for the year fell to the House Republicans. Developing a fiscal budget for America involved significant budget cuts to entitlement programs which the Democrats did not want to do but knew they would have had to if they had done their jobs.

Presenting the nation with a new fiscal

budget provided an extremely negative spotlight for House Republicans. In the days prior to the budget announcement, Democratic Party leaders such as Nancy Pelosi went on tirades about protecting government entitlement programs for the poor and the elderly.

In the end, \$38.5 billion was cut from the budget, according to CNN.com. Loosely translated, no one got exactly what they wanted.

Liberal media outlets lauded the event as "the most significant budget cuts in history." The event was not historical. It was a disaster

that should have never happened and easily could have been avoided if the members of the 110th Congress had fulfilled the requirements of their position.

Conservatives fought valiantly to defund Planned Parenthood and National Public Radio.

Carrie Budoff Brown of politico.com said it best.

"Social conservatives lost Round One against Planned Parenthood, but they got a taste of what's possible and vowed Saturday to return for more."

Sadly, Planned Parenthood and NPR will continue to be funded by taxpayer dollars.

"We're not finished with this, the fiscal year 2012 budget is just around the corner. We are going to continue to work to defund Planned Parenthood," Penny Nance, CEO of Concerned Women for America said in an interview with Politico.com.

The fight for the restoration of the fiscal budget is far from over.

"President Obama is expected to address the long-term debt in a speech this week," Jeanne Sahadi said in an article on CNN.com.

Now more than ever, it is important to contact your congressmen and senators to fight for fiscal responsibility and a balanced budget.

◆ BELL is the opinion editor.

Trading jobs: Lawyer turned chocolatier

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Shawn Askinosie is considered by most a modern day Willie Wonka as he changes the lives of children through his chocolate entrepreneurship.

Askinosie has designed a project, affectionately called Chocolate University, for the sole purpose of teaching local children how they can be involved in daily serving others through their vocations.

The renovated 19th century tobacco factory in Springfield, Mo. welcomes young people from local elementary, middle and high schools to receive hands on experience of artisan chocolate making according to Askinosie's official website.

"The factory is located in the Historic Commercial Street District and is one block from the Missouri Hotel, Springfield's largest homeless shelter, where too many children have to spend the night," Askinosie said, according to his website.

Drury University, a neighbor to the chocolate factory, has part-

nered with Askinosie Chocolate in the effort to provide a unique and positive program for the local children.—source?

"Askinosie Chocolate is the sole funding source of Chocolate University by donating 100 percent of their tour proceeds to Drury University for the benefit of the neighborhood children," Askinosie said on his official website.

"The goals of the project are to inspire the children about (1) entrepreneurship and (2) a world beyond their own," Askinosie said.

When young people graduate from Chocolate University, they are offered the opportunity to travel with Askinosie to one of his bean suppliers, which is located in Tanzania. Askinosie's strict bean to bar policy separates his company from the commercial chocolate companies like Hershey's.

"We focus on what we do best which is to make chocolate from scratch and there is only a handful of people, really in the world, that make it from the bean," Askinosie said in an interview on FOX Business.

The goals of the project are to inspire the children about (1) entrepreneurship and (2) a world beyond their own.
— Askinosie

Askinosie travels to each of his bean suppliers and has cultivated a trusting and admirable relationship with each of them according to Askinosie's official website.

He chooses what farmers he would like to buy from only after fervently praying over the decision. Furthermore, Askinosie ensures that the farmers are accepting of his input, specifically concerning the stages of the harvest that affect the taste of the chocolate the most, according to Askinosie's official site.

The young people who accompany Askinosie can see firsthand that he lives his life with integrity as

he unselfishly brings back a portion of the profits to give the farmers—source

In addition, he provides them with his calculations of how he arrived at the amount he gave them and discusses whether they agree that it is fair, according to his interview on FOX Business.

The farmers in Ecuador and Mexico that Askinosie has been buying from have said that they have never had a buyer return with additional money before.

Shawn Askinosie is a wonderful example of what it means to truly live an unselfish life.

Prior to career switch, Askinosie was a prominent criminal defense attorney for two decades. He mostly dealt with heavy cases that involved rapes, murders and robberies.

"I was involved in two first degree murder cases; they were very emotional and very physically taxing," Askinosie said in an interview with NBC. "It was then that I started to search and pray for another passion to come my way."

He certainly found that passion. Now instead of being a lawyer, he is selling everything from chocolate gifts to chocolate beverages.

Some may consider Askinosie's decision to leave his lucrative career as a high profile lawyer to be become a modern day Willie Wonka foolish, but I call it courageous.

After all, God does not call us to follow a paycheck. He calls us to follow Him.

◆ ROYALL is an opinion writer.

From the Desk

Six-thirty a.m. on a Saturday morning is not something I see very often. Normally at this time, I have only been asleep for three hours and I plan on sleeping another five. But I was up Saturday with what my mom says is a "smile on my face and song in my heart." The smile was for the bounty that I was soon to reap at the J.Crew outlet sale — the song was from the lyrical genius Uncle Kracker that my pal Ashley began humming as soon as she was buckled into my car.

For anyone who has ever shopped the J.Crew sale, they

know two things. Arrive early and wear leggings. Getting there early ensures finding the best stuff and the leggings, well they make the trying on process easier as there are zero mirrors and zero privacy.

But even with proper planning, there are always those that arrive earlier. Our two-hour shuffle to the front of the line gave us the opportunity to make new friends with the hip Lynchburg moms in front of us and time to map out our game plan.

After finally making it past the bouncer at the door, the madness begins. Outwitting, outlasting and outplaying are what matter the most in this game. Pushing, shoving, throwing, shouting, maneuvering — A fashionistas version of survival of the fittest and the weak will not win.

That girl that quietly sits next to you in class becomes a vulture, circling your bag of clothes until you discard the remnants of what seemed like a cute skirt when you first snatched it. The woman that kindly complemented you in line is the same woman that with crazy eyes and claw-like hands growls, "That's mine," as you both reach to pick up a cardigan.

After rummaging through three or four boxes of unsalvageable sweaters marked "Sample," in permanent marker, I crouched on my hands and knees to sift through boxes on

the floor. Finding nothing but mateless shoes and an unfortunate yeti-like fleece pullover, I popped back up to behold a girl changing in the middle of the store. Normally, this would be considered socially unacceptable, but the rules change at the J. Crew outlet sale. Of course there were the gawking girls, whispering to their friends from the other side of the table but there was one thing the scantily clad girl did not attract, and that was the eye of the five or so boys that I knew to be Liberty students that were standing nearby. I observed these boys averting their eyes and turning their heads and wanted to give them all high fives. Bravo boys.

I may have lost much needed sleep and may be \$140 in the hole, but the sparkly flats that are currently giving me blisters were well worth it.

Taylor Overholtz

Fox News, Glenn Beck part ways

After a good run in broadcast, Beck shifts focus to the radio market

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While there was heated opposition on Capital Hill this week, Fox News and Glenn Beck parted ways amicably. According to a New York Times article, Beck's leaving seems to be a mutual agreement between Beck and Fox News. Some of the reasoning behind Beck's leaving could be the advertisers who have boycotted the show as well as Beck's steady stream of controversial remarks. According to the Wall Street Journal, 400 advertisers had boycotted the show. Given the fact that Beck wasn't advocating violence, racism or other blatant morally objectionable things this seems like a petty high school popularity contest move on the part of the advertisers.

Beck's announcement that he will be discontinuing his television show has sparked an interesting national dialogue across the country. Some are thrilled that he no longer will be able to use Fox News as a soapbox to spread his opinions. Some in the conservative movement think that he was a major liability that made the right look crazy. Jennifer Rubin of the Washington Post said that it was a good thing for conservatives that Beck was leaving.

"It is entirely fitting that he should leave this week. This week belonged to the grownups in the conservative movement," Rubin said.

If people view Beck as a journalist he appears ridiculous. Some of his speculations can be very far-fetched, and lot of what he talks about could hardly be considered solid fact. Beck hosts a talk show, not the nightly news. The reason people watch his show is to hear how he thinks, his speculation and prediction on current events. So if conservatives want to tout him as serious news, then he makes all of them look foolish. If he is viewed for what he is — a commentator — then his enthusiastic



PHOTO ARCHIVES

BECK — Controversial talk show host will end his broadcast program to focus on his talk radio show.

erants can be entertaining.

Beck has accomplished some good for the conservative movement. His Restoring Honor rally generated a great deal of enthusiasm for the right. Even though there is controversy as to the actual number of people in attendance, the rally was still impressive. He has also generated quite a following. The New York Times described his show as "top rated" and dominating the 5 p.m. hour on cable

news. According to their article Beck's average nightly audience was 1.9 million. Although these ratings are significant, this improves to be a decrease in ratings. Beck set records for Fox News for his timeslot with having some broadcasts over 3 million viewers, according to the New York Times. Some of his views lack sufficient evidence. However the enthusiasm that he and others were able to stir up could possibly account for the huge turnover

in the House and Senate last November. People were motivated to generate change of their own. Instead of the typical grumbling about how bad things were in Washington, people got involved and voted, campaigned and did things that they may not have done otherwise. Beck must be evaluated for what he is — a motivator and entertainer.

◆ SOSNOSKI is an opinion writer.

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A SERIES LOOKING AT STUDENTS FIGHTING TO PROTECT AMERICA'S FREEDOM

Master Sgt. Jamal H. Bowers: Life lived for God and country

OMAR ADAMS
oadams@liberty.edu

Master Sgt. Jamal Bowers, a decorated soldier and Marine who served more than 20 years on deployments that spanned the globe, died March 18 in a medical-related incident.

The 41-year-old native of Newark, N.J., spent the last decade with the U.S. Army Special Operations Command based out of Fort Bragg, N.C. He joined the Marine Corps in 1987 and switched to The Army Reserve in 1993. He had been finishing up a bachelor of science in multidisciplinary studies from Liberty University Online while deployed to Camp Lemonier, Djibouti along the Somalia border.

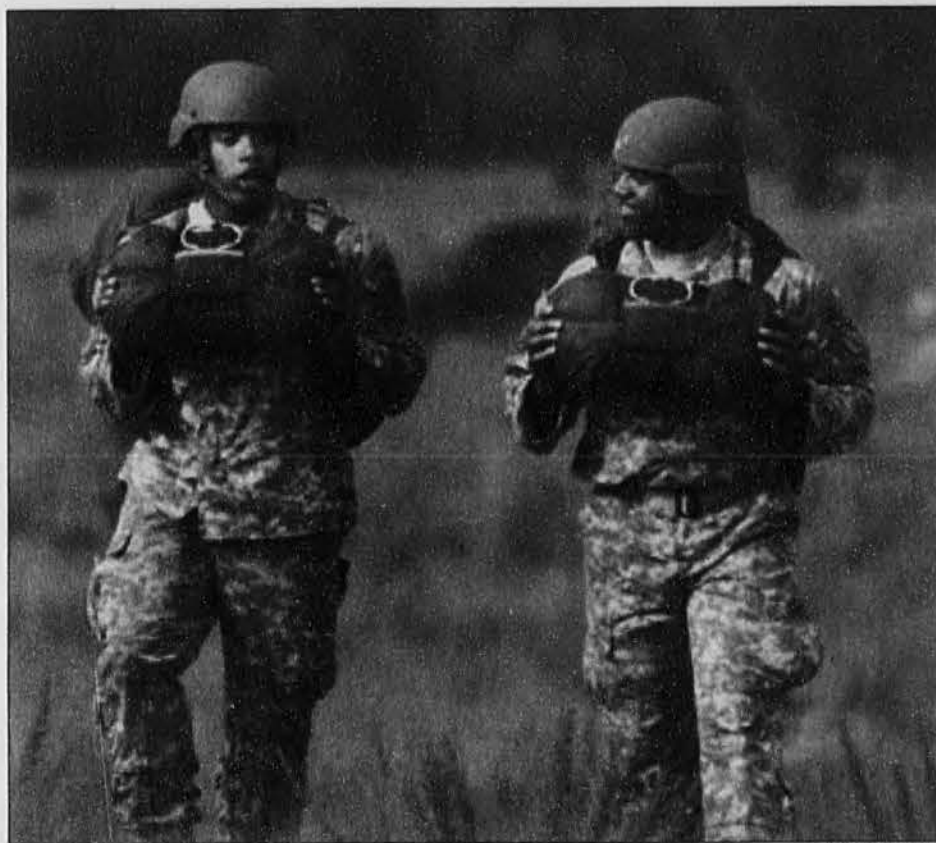
Jamal Bowers' wife, Kawana Bowers, said he wanted to become a teacher when he retired.

"After he finished his degree, he was going to get his masters degree and then doctorate degree in psychology," she said. "He wanted to actually teach history at Harvest Preparatory Academy, which is our church, in Fayetteville, NC."

Jamal Bowers chose Liberty for its foundational Christian beliefs.

"He decided he wanted to go to Liberty because he wanted a school that was based on religion and not just (offering) classes in religion — a school that was founded on Christian beliefs," Kawana Bowers said. "A lot of schools offer classes in religion, but they're not actually founded on Christianity."

Planning to retire on September 24, 2015, Jamal Bowers had currently been stationed overseas as part of Operation Enduring Freedom — Horn of Africa under the military's Africa Command (AFRICOM). He was part of Company A, 6th Military Information Support Battalion (Airborne), 4th Psychological Operations Group. While not on a deploy-



FATHER AND SON — Master Sgt. Jamal Bowers (right) took part in an airborne operation in June 2010 with his son, Pfc. Jamal Bowers II, who is also an Army special operations soldier.

ment, Jamal Bowers was an instructor at the Psychological Operations Qualification Course at the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School.

Jamal Bowers' deployments included two tours in Iraq and one in Afghanistan. Among his numerous decorations, he was awarded the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal and Navy Achievement Medal for Valor. The latter was cited for "tactical skills and courage under fire" while counterattacking an enemy ambush in Fallujah, Iraq and leading three wounded Marines to safety. The Department of Defense held a special dinner in honor of Jamal Bowers and 10 other African American veterans in February 2008.

As a special operations soldier, Jamal Bowers' actions were classified, and the stress strained his family relationships.

"Only a small group of women are chosen by God to be married to the soldiers that we're married to — it is a sacrifice, and you cannot do it without God," Kawana Bowers said. "They have the highest divorce rate in the military because of what they do, and the stress of the job will sometimes follow them home."

Kawana Bowers intends to go out and speak to women in similar circumstances based on her Christian beliefs and experience as the spouse, and now gold star wife, of a special operations soldier.

She said most women "can't handle the ag-

gression and the lifestyle," but need to realize that "it's not personal." The stress of the job, all the secrets the must keep, and the struggle to "separate everything from work and home" are tough to bear.

"Just be a good listener," she said. "A lot of times I didn't want to listen because I didn't want to hear the horror stories, but in the end, I learned to listen because that was the only way he could get it out — even if he was talking about nothing, they just want you to listen."

Kawana Bowers is available to speak with other military spouses and has been approached by women who want to know how she is able to be so strong in this situation.

"Because of my faith and because we're in a good ministry, I've been taught well," she said. "Most people don't see how I'm dealing with what I'm dealing with, but I know that death is not necessarily the end, it's the beginning."

With all of her recent experiences, Kawana Bowers has learned the hard way many things she wish she had been told beforehand. She encourages women with questions, particularly military spouses, to message her on Facebook.

"There's a lot of stuff you don't know and a lot of stuff that he planned on doing before he left, but we never got around to it, that would've made a great difference now," she said. "Just those small tips would help a lot."

People have been asking how they can help, so the family set up an account for Jamal and Kawana Bowers' grandchildren. Jamal Bowers loved his grandchildren so much that, in lieu of sending flowers to the house, the family asked that people make checks payable to Kawana Bowers so that she could put them in her grandchildren's account — that way, Jamal Bowers could provide the inheritance that he wanted for his grandchildren.

◆ ADAMS is the copy editor.



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Fire claims lives of Liberty alumni

TAYLOR OVERHULTZ
toverhultz@liberty.edu

Aaron and Rachael Horton, 2007 graduates of Liberty University, died together Friday, April 8.

The two grew up in Lynchburg and met while attending Liberty. They married in 2007 and remained in the area.

"They were a joy to be around, so much fun and so full of life," Heather Quintero, Rachael's sister, said. "They both loved dressing up and doing something, anything. And they both loved spending time with their nephews and Aaron's cousins."

Both Rachael and Aaron graduated from Liberty in 2007.

Rachael worked for Gentle Care Animal Hospital and was studying to receive her veterinary technician licensure. Aaron was employed by Genworth Financial and had almost completed a master's degree from the University of Wales.

"More than anything else (they) both loved literature — C.S. Lewis, Tolkien and J.K. Rowling — They both read voraciously," Quintero said. "Both of them loved C.S. Lewis' 'Chronicles of Narnia,' and they would talk about what heaven would be like and if it was like what Lewis had imagined."

The couple also enjoyed traveling, devoting most of their time to Great Britain, according to Quintero.

"They traveled to Great Britain as much as they could and went several times since getting married," she said. "As often as they got a chance, they would go, even if it meant sleeping on the floor of someone else's home, they would go."

Aaron had hoped to teach ancient history on a collegiate level, and Rachael had planned to continue caring for animals as a vet technician.

"Rachael really had a heart for any animal or person that was hurting and would go out of her way — one of the last things she did was one of the girls she worked with found out her dog was going to be put down, and Rachael spent

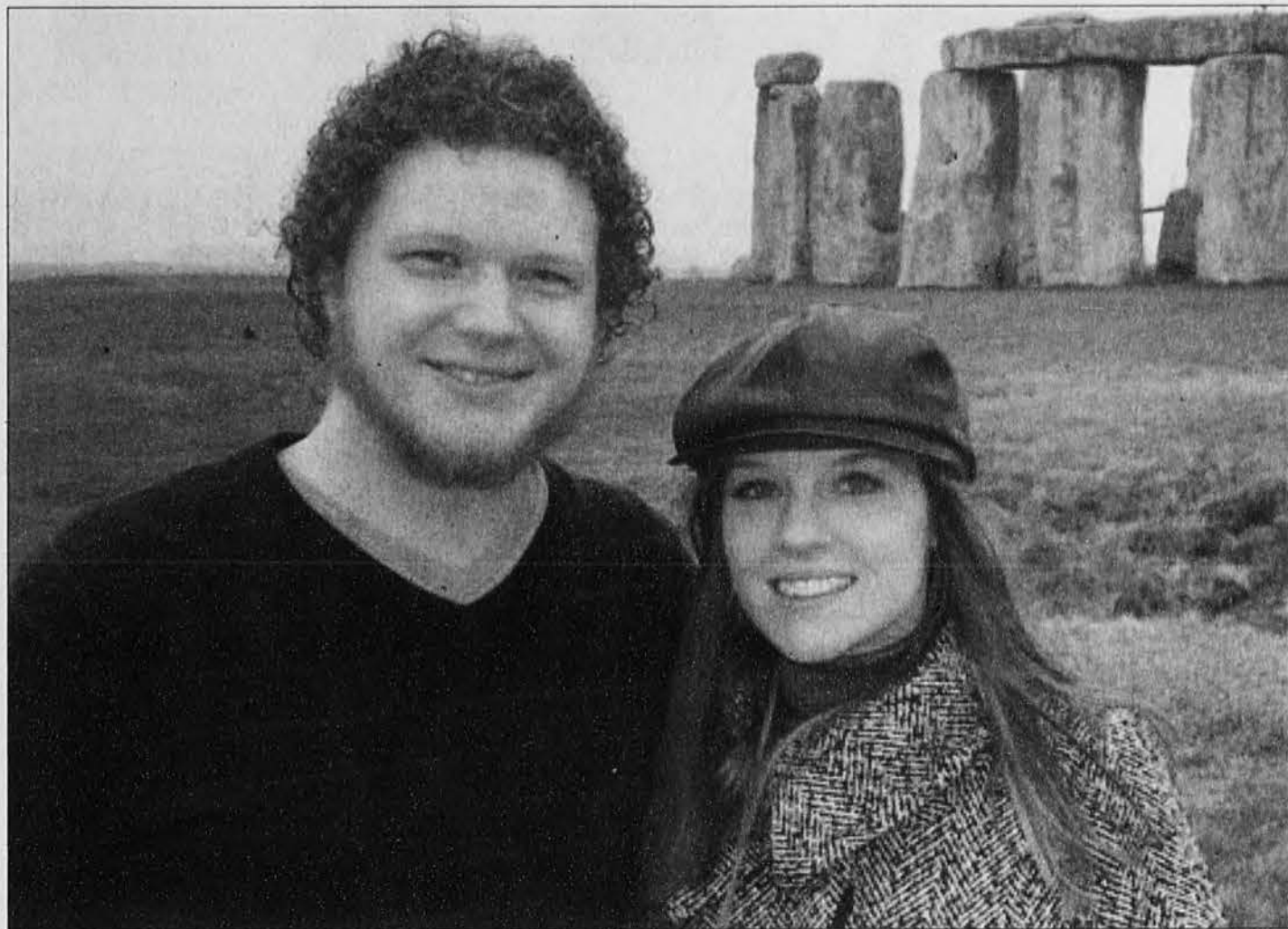


PHOTO PROVIDED

AARON AND RACHAEL — The Hortons shared a love for traveling to Great Britain, which they did as often as possible.

time the last two days putting together a gift basket, one for her friend and one for her dog," Quintero said.

The couple's cat Oscar also died in the fire Friday.

"I know Rachael and Aaron both were very strong in their faith — I can't emphasize what a vital part of their lives it was," Quintero said. "It was their life, it was who they were."

"The way they lived their lives really speaks for itself, and really the way they lived was a testimony and is the best testimony," Quintero

said. "We are glad that we have hope."

Rachael Horton is survived by her father Wendell Kenneth Johnson, of Bedford, and mother Kathie Carwile Morgan and her husband, Elwood J. Morgan Jr., of Lynchburg.

In addition to her parents, Rachael is survived by her sister and brother-in-law, Heather and Josh Quintero and nephews, Jude, Gabriel and Elias Quintero.

Aaron Horton is survived by his father Kenneth Elmore Horton and mother Barbara Parrish Horton, both of Lynchburg.

In addition to his parents and grandmother, he is survived by one sister, Leah C. Horton, of Lynchburg.

A funeral service will be conducted at 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 13, 2011, at Thomas Road Baptist Church.

The family will receive friends from 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 12, 2011, at Whitten Timberlake Chapel, according to their obituary.

◆ OVERHULTZ is the editor in chief.

Friend of Liberty dies

CRYSTAL A. HEAVNER
cheavner@liberty.edu

A loving husband, father and grandfather, a friend of Liberty, a servant in Thomas Road Baptist Church (TRBC) and a successful businessman passed away April 5. Samuel K. Pate Sr., 75, of Lynchburg died Monday after a short illness.



PATE

Pate is survived by his wife of 49 years, Carole, and their children Samuel Kenneth Pate Jr. and his wife Debbie, and daughter Kathy Pate McNeill and her husband Brad. He is also survived by four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren (who will be born later this spring).

Pate, who was known as "Poppy" to his family is also survived by two sisters, Jean Pate Ferris and Macel Pate Falwell, wife of the late Dr. Jerry L. Falwell.

Pate served on Liberty's Board of trustees from the 1970s until 1989. He was a charter

member and chairman of the Board of Deacons of TRBC and also served on the boards of Liberty Christian Academy (LCA) and the Liberty Godparent Home.

Pate attended Tennessee Temple University and became a successful businessman in Lynchburg. He helped develop Dr. Jerry Falwell Sr.'s radio and television ministry, the "Old Time Gospel Hour" in the late 1960s.

Later he founded the mailing company Samuel K. Pate Associates for business services and direct mail advertising. The company served clients across the nation.

"Sam will be greatly missed. He was a loyal member of Thomas Road Baptist Church and was quick to defend the church or Liberty University whenever necessary," Chancellor Jerry Falwell Jr. said.

Even in his death, Pate's Christian service continues. His family has requested those wishing to send memorial contributions to consider sending them to the Liberty Godparent Home.

◆ HEAVNER is a news writer.



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Q&A



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LARRY SHACKLETON
Registrar and
University
Ombudsman



EMILY HEADY
Dean of General
Studies and Associate
Professor of English

A forum on academic changes

Chancellor Falwell and team tackle frequently asked questions

The Chancellor, the Provost and his staff and others conducted four question-and-answer sessions for students early last week. For those students who were unable to attend the forums, The Champion is publishing this Q & A. Some of the planned class offerings and professor assignments were changed after input was received from students in the forums last week. All of the changes will be subject to ongoing review and assessment, and further refinements will occur as faculty and students provide additional feedback to deans and administration. The goal of all the changes has been to enhance the learning experience for students and improve the academic outcomes of the university while making the most efficient use of the university's financial resources.

Are any courses being "moved" to online?

Dr. Emily Heady: No. Courses with historically low enrollments (less than 10 students) will not be offered residually every semester and some will be on a regular rotation, but this is not a new policy for Liberty. We have always canceled classes that do not meet minimum standards for enrollment.

Are any courses being canceled?

Dr. Ron Hawkins: No courses required for degree completion for our students are being canceled. However, some courses are being offered over a two-year cycle so the frequency of their offering is changed. When students have found that the two-year cycle is not working for them to meet their graduation goal, we have put the courses back on the schedule or arranged for them to work with a professor in an independent study to complete the course in the time frame needed to graduate on schedule.

Are any class sizes being increased?

Dr. Ron Hawkins: Some of our 100 and 200 level

classes are going to a Master Teacher model which involves a large class meeting one day a week with the Master Teacher and small discussion groups led by graduate assistants meeting one or two days a week. We did increase the size of some sections at the 300 and 400 levels. In all cases we have been willing to sit down with the department chairs and discuss the appropriateness of those increases. We also made it clear to all the Deans that any increases in size for 300 and 400 level courses are open to ongoing discussion and change when warranted.

Dr. Emily Heady: You may notice an increase in some class sizes, especially at the 100 or 200 level or in cases where the course is mainly designed to deliver content — not to teach a skill such as writing or speaking. In classes that are writing-intensive, hands-on or skills-based, you'll still have small classes. In addition, even at the lower level, we are beginning to implement a model of instruction that combines large lectures with small discussion groups, so you receive both the benefits of a great lecture and the one-on-one instruction you can have in a small group. Students are seeing larger class sizes in some upper-level classes as well. When we selected classes to move to once a year, we increased the section sizes to accommodate all the students needing the classes. In some cases, class sizes moved from 20-25 to 50 or 60. A few other examples had sizes of 100-120 moving to 250. We were careful, however, to increase the sizes of only those courses with subject matter that could be taught effectively with more students, and faculty are being given graduate assistant support where needed.

Which departments at the university will be impacted by the changes?

Mr. Larry Shackleton:

The departments where most of the changes occur are School of Communication, School of Religion including graduate religion programs in the Seminary, School of Business, and the College of Arts & Sciences.

QUESTION FROM JON GONZALES

Can you give some clarification on the big move to online programs? I have had some of my guys asking about that and questioning whether they should just take classes online.

Chancellor Jerry Falwell: Jon, there is no "big move to online." That is a myth. We did four forums last week to answer questions about that. Each one lasted almost two hours, but the bottom line is this — in about four departments at the university, we had more teachers than were needed to teach the classes, so some of those teachers were moved to online, but all the resident courses will still be offered residually, just not as often in some cases. The courses were not moved to online and many are not even offered online.

Is the faculty/student ratio being increased?

Dr. Ron Hawkins: No. The faculty student ratio is actually being decreased because we are counting the full number of faculty who teach a minimum of 24 hours per year for the university, just as other universities have always done.

Dr. Emily Heady: No. On the contrary, the university is working to decrease the student-to-faculty ratio. These ratios are calculated based on a formula that calculates the number of faculty in relation to the number of students. Liberty has a number of faculty who are teaching full loads of three to five courses per semester whom we have not previously counted among our full-time faculty. If we factor these faculty members in, the ratio is 23:1 for all of Liberty, including online,

and lower for Liberty residential. This does not mean that every class will have around 20 students, but it is the average across the university.

Note that class size and student-to-faculty ratio are not the same thing. Many universities have enormous class sizes and ratios that are quite low simply because they have a lot of faculty who don't teach much (or even at all). Liberty University is committed to keeping all our faculty in the classroom as their primary responsibility.

Why are flex faculty being moved to online?

Dr. Emily Heady: Flex faculty are not being "moved." They're still here in their offices, and they're still available to teach in the residential program (and many of them will). Instead, the university has asked certain faculty to assume some duties teaching online. There are several reasons for this. First, we found that we had more faculty than we needed in some departments of the residential program. In addition, we know that our online program can benefit from the wisdom and experience of these faculty members. They are being given assignments online but can expect to move back and forth between delivery formats as the university grows and its needs change.

Why are some professors being demoted to teach only general education courses?

Dr. Emily Heady: We are beginning a new College of General Studies in the fall in an attempt to give our incoming students every chance at succeeding at Liberty. The faculty who will be teaching exclusively in CGS were carefully chosen because they are remarkably effective teachers in general education courses. It's not a demotion — it's an honor.

QUESTION FROM BENJAMIN ONEAL, SEMINARY

As far as we know, the classes are being moved

from residential to online to make more money. Unfortunately, some students are already planning on leaving the seminary due to these rumors.

Mr. Larry Shackleton: This is not the case at all. There are a few classes that always had very small enrollments, and what we have done is made the decision to only teach those classes once a year rather than every semester. This is not about making money ... rather about being good stewards of the money we do have ... just as you would expect of us.

QUESTION FROM BENJAMIN ONEAL, SEMINARY

Scheduling for the next semester will be very difficult for seminary students.

Mr. Larry Shackleton: The Seminary created its schedule as it always has. If you have specific questions about your courses, please e-mail the Registrar's Office at registrar@liberty.edu.

Will my degree be worth something when I graduate?

Dr. Emily Heady: Yes. These changes, while difficult in the short term, assure the long-term health and quality of the university. We are putting Liberty in a position to be strong for many years to come by being responsible stewards of our resources now. In addition, the Chancellor has committed to take concrete steps to raise the university's academic profile, such as investing strategically in strong programs and committing to nurture others, adding qualified individuals to the ranks of our faculty, and scrutinizing the quality of education students receive at the university.

If I have trouble, who should I contact?

Dr. Emily Heady: If anyone needs a particular class to graduate on time and can't find it on the posted schedule, contact our University Registrar and Ombudsman Larry Shackleton at registrar@liberty.edu.

A NOTE FROM LARRY SHACKLETON

Kudos to those who are making this work

I have received about 50 emails from students as Ombudsman. Most are about a specific class or classes they need, some are about class timing conflicts, and the rest are just questions and asking where their classes went.

I have resolved all but three of these and am still working on these. I have had great support from Karen Prior, Cecil Kramer and Scott Hicks in finding alternatives for students. In many cases, we have added classes back into the schedule and in some cases we are creating independent studies.

Because of the planned major expansion of academic facilities at Liberty over the next few years, the Chancellor charged us with the task of determining whether existing programs were being operated as effectively and as efficiently as possible. Our audit found inefficiencies in some programs. As we set out to "fix" these problems, the Chancellor told us that our first goal should be enhanced learning and that our second goal should be saving money.

We kept those priorities in order as we worked through this process. We are determined that the end result of all these changes will be a greatly improved educational experience for each student at Liberty. We will need input and feedback from students to achieve that goal as we go forward, but we will not rest until that goal is attained.

UPDATES continued from A1

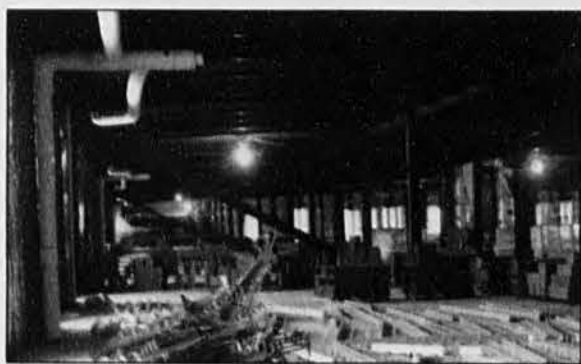
forward.

With the academic changes beginning to take place, Falwell said the administration is re-evaluating the need for space and the department zoning.

"We are going to be changing, not cutting back, just changing," Spence said.

Along with the buildings behind DeMoss being demolished, the Schilling Center will also be removed in the near future, potentially sometime during fall 2011, according to Spence.

The Hangar will remain where it is until the construction of the Library is completed, according to Spence.



WORK IN PROGRESS — Liberty officials plan to use the expanded fourth floor of DeMoss for additional academic space.

"We looked at 10 to 15 different libraries built by universities over the past 10 years, and we found that the majority of them actually had food courts located inside of the library," Falwell said.

The majority of the food providers located in the

Hangar will be moved to the Library as soon as its construction is completed.

At this point in time there is not an approximate date as to when these projects will be completed.

◆ **BOLLINGER** is the news editor.

Relay: Run to save lives

JESSICA ROWELL
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Liberty University will be hosting the Relay For Life, a signature fundraising event for the American Cancer Society on April 15.

Teams will gather at Osborne Soccer Stadium from 6 p.m. to 5 a.m. and will have one representative walking on the track at all times. The event is a chance for communities to come together and battle cancer while celebrating those who have.

"Along with being able to raise funds, we are able to unite students on campus for a great cause as well" entertainment coordinator Shara Seetaram said. "Seeing and hearing people everyday talking about Relay For Life is so exciting."

"Lynchburg could be summarized as a Relay city. There are seven Relays within a 25 mile radius," student chair Perry Bobbitt noted. "This makes Liberty University the new kid on the block. However, we are coming out swinging."

The Relay For Life seeks to honor those whose lives have been touched by cancer through various traditions. The inspirational "Survivors Lap" will begin the relay and survivors are invited to circle the track together to celebrate their victories.

The "Luminaria Ceremony" is held after dark and is a time to remember and honor those who have lost their fight with cancer.

Lastly, the "Fight Back Ceremony" is a time where participants make a personal commitment to take up the battle against cancer.

Jessica Scott, who serves as the survivor/caregiver chair for the Relay, has personally seen cancer touch loved ones in her own life and has high hopes for this year's event.

"Cancer has touched my life and I want to do what I can to try and beat this nasty disease," Scott said. "Relay for Life gives people the opportunity to make a change in the world."

◆ **ROWELL** is a news writer.



SERVING UP COMPETITION — Freshman Stanislav Vaughan and the Liberty men's tennis team won against Longwood Tuesday but lost two straight against Gardner-Webb and Radford. The Lady Flames tennis team won all three of their matches this week in preparation for the Big South Conference Championship, which begins April 20 in Rock Hill, S.C.

Tennis gearing up for conference

JENNA VANDEN BROOK
jvandenbrook@liberty.edu

Both the men's and women's tennis teams have been battling against difficult opponents, conference pressure and nature itself this season.

They now stand just a few matches away from the Big South Championship, which is followed by the NCAA Championship tournament.

Both teams competed in conference play Tuesday, April 4 against the Gardner-Webb Runnin' Bulldogs. The men faced a difficult loss with many close matches resulting in a Gardner-Webb win of 5-2.

The Lady Flames won in their close game against Gardner-Webb, taking it with a score of 4-3. The No. 1 doubles team of Jenkins and Fick was the only Liberty doubles team to pull out a win. In singles, Richard, Sheeran, Lobel and Jenkins won their matches gaining the points Liberty need to add another victory to its record.

"I'm really proud of our girls as they never give up on a match," head coach Chris

Johnson said. "We would not be where we are now if they did not fight so hard."

The April 4 match was the Flames first step onto the courts for competition since its March 17 match against Georgia Southern.

All of the matches during the hiatus were canceled or rescheduled due to the threat of bad weather. Though Liberty fought hard and added singles victories from No. 2 sophomore Tristan Stayt and No. 6 freshman Stanislav Vaughan, they could not pull out a total win against Gardner-Webb.

"We had match after match postponed due to weather and we lost a little bit of that competitive edge that is a big factor when competing with other teams," No. 1 doubles senior Benjamin Wirth said. "This is one reason why we played so well against Longwood and won, we used the Gardner-Webb match to regain that competitive edge."

The Flames recovered and defeated Longwood 4-3 on April 5 at home on the Hershey-Esbenshade Tennis Courts. The win kept Liberty undefeated on its home courts.

Though the Lancers took the doubles point, singles player junior Giancarlo Lemmi, freshman Stanislav Vaughan and junior Mandeep Yadev had straight-set victories gaining three points for Liberty. No. 1 singles player Siim Tuus added the Flames winning point to the board with a No. 2 defeat of Lancer Marc Ferrigno.

"At number one doubles, Siim and I were out to a great start, and we had the home court advantage. Once the other team made the adjustments, we did not make the adjustments back to beat them and their momentum carried them to the victory," Wirth said of their close 8-6 loss. "We have fixed that problem and we are awaiting eagerly to take the next doubles point."

The Lady Flames added yet another win after their match against Longwood on April 5. It was a shutout in doubles as all three Liberty duos raked in a win. The Lady Flames finalized the win at 5-2, adding four singles wins to the mix.

Both teams played conference matches April 9 against Radford. The men's team fell to 8-9 after a loss to Radford, who shutout

Liberty 7-0. The conference loss put them 1-3 in conference play.

The Lady Flames, however, trounced the Radford Lady Highlanders 7-0 on its April 6 conference match, putting the Lady Flames at an impressive 12-6 in matches and 4-1 in conference games.

"We are very excited about the girls' play at this point," Johnson said. "To be 12-6 overall and 4-1 in the conference is achieving many of the goals we set forth at the beginning of the year. We work hard on playing smart and making the right adjustments on the court."

In his match against Radford, Tuus was the only Liberty men's singles player to win a set against his opponent. After losing the first set, Tuus came back with vengeance to win the second set. Both Tuus and his opponent, Ivan Salec, fought hard for domination of the third set. In the end, Salec narrowly defeated Tuus with a final match score of 6-4, 4-6 and 10-8.

See **TENNIS** on B3

Softball takes two of three

KATHERINE LACAZE
kelacaze@liberty.edu

After faltering on the defense during game one of Saturday's doubleheader and taking a 2-6 loss, the Liberty Flames softball team stepped it up, taking control of the next two games and winning two of its three home games in the series against the Charleston Southern Buccaneers on April 8 and 9.

Pitcher Katrina Johnson struggled during the first game, giving up five runs, and the team couldn't recover, according to head coach Paul Wetmore. However, he said the second game was com-

pletely different.

"Kat came out and pitched a complete game and she pitched very well," Wetmore said. "We hit the ball well. We had some long ball, and the intensity was great in the second game because we didn't have to play from behind. That makes a huge difference."

Johnson said that after pitching most of the first two innings of the first game, she went to the bullpen to practice so she was ready to come back out during game two. Not only did her pitching keep the Buccaneers at one run and six hits, but the rest

of the defense stepped it up, according to Johnson.

"The first game, we might have struggled a little on the mound and on defense, so we decided to just come back the second game and bring it together and refuse to be mediocre," third baseman Ashley Bensinger said. "We were going to be good at all things and that was the focus."

Bensinger said that the strength of the Lady Flames during the second game was adjusting to what the Buccaneers pitchers were throwing, not just during each at-bat, but with each pitch.

See **SOFTBALL** on B3



SUCCESSFUL BATTER — The Lady Flames softball team took two of three games this weekend against Charleston Southern.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Shepherd matches record on his birthday

Liberty pole vaulter Kolby Shepherd matched a long-standing school record of 17-6.5 feet Saturday at the Texas Relays. The vault placed him third in the competition among several talented and decorated athletes.



SHEPHERD

The two vaulters to place higher were the No. 1 ranked pole vaulter for the 2011 season and last year's national champion. Shepherd successfully cleared the vault on his first attempt. The record had been held since 1993 and was Liberty track and field's oldest standing record. Not only was Saturday a successful day for Shepherd, but it was also his 22nd birthday.

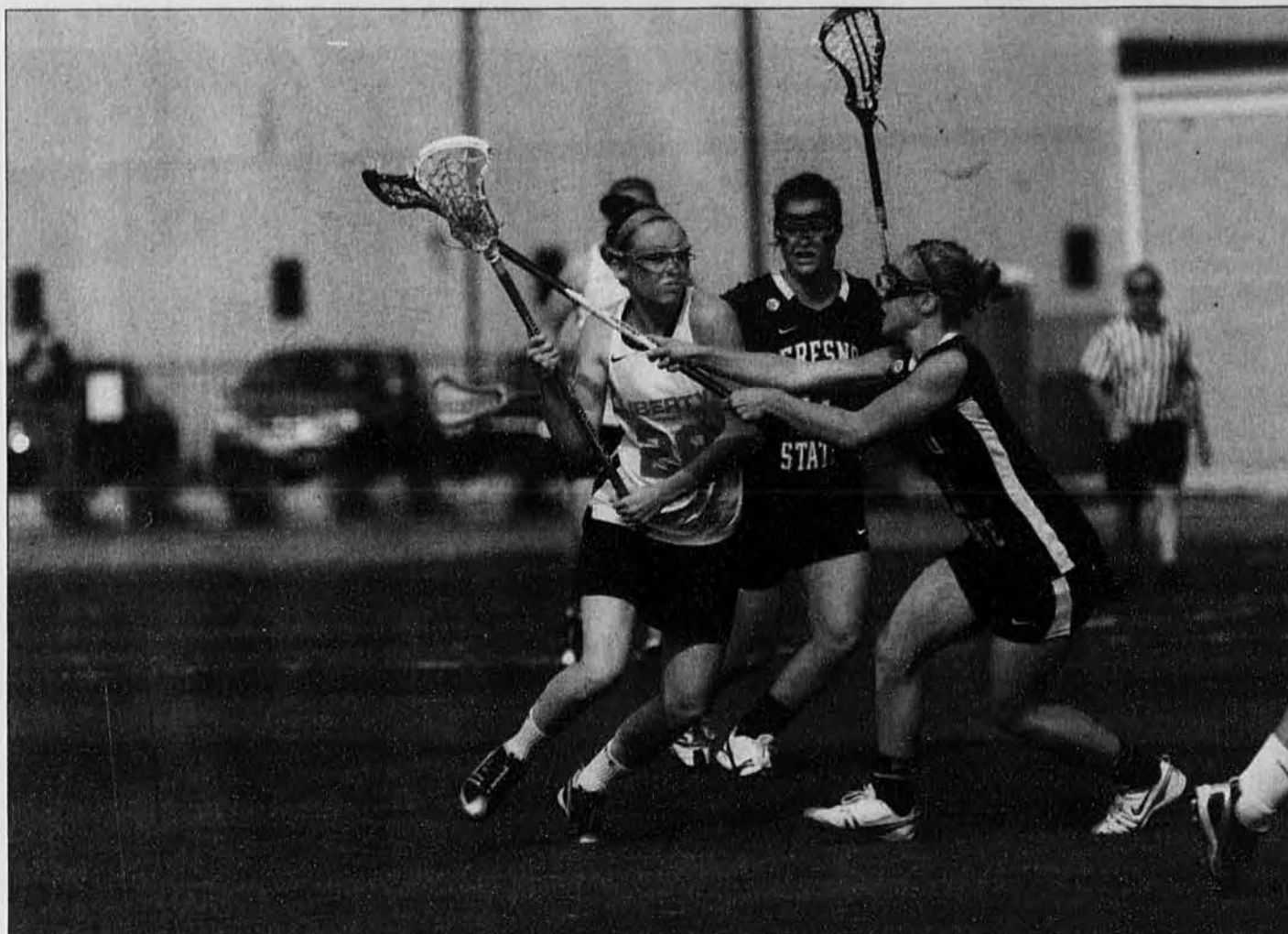
Golf places second at River Landing

Liberty's golf team took second place this weekend at the River Landing Intercollegiate competition. After the first 36 holes in the two-day tournament, No. 32 Liberty led the competition with a combined 21-under par, but recorded a one-over par during of Saturday's play.

Liberty finished the competition 20-under par, which is the Flames lowest score of the second, as well as the second lowest in the program's history. Junior Robert Karlsson finished to share fourth place at seven-under par, and was Liberty's top finisher. The next event takes the Flames to the 2011 Big South Men's Championship April 18-20. The first place finisher will receive the automatic bid to the NCAA Regional Competition.

Football spring practice under way

The Liberty Flames football team completed its third week of spring practices. According to Libertyflames.com, head coach Danny Rocco feels as if he has about 95 percent of his offensive and defensive game plans ready. Rocco has one week left of practice until the



LIS SCHOFFER

HIGH SCORING — The lacrosse team beat Erskine Tuesday with a score of 17-7, led by five scorers with four goals each.

annual spring football game Saturday, April 16 at 1 p.m. The team will be running drills to work on unique game situations for its next three practices, beginning Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

Women's Lacrosse wins one of three

The Lady Flames had a busy week, playing two games on the road and returning home to close out the week.

The Lady Flames dropped the first game of the week last Sunday to an evenly-matched Presbyterian, 13-12. Freshman Jen Freymond netted a season-high five goals. The

Lady Flames rebounded Tuesday with a 17-7 victory against Erskine. Karis Walborn, Kristen Crowley, Jen Moyer and Freymond all scored four goals a piece for the Lady Flames. Emily Dinsmore, Annessa Jamison, Amanda Hornick, Alexis Fifleski and Bianca Brancalone one each netted one each.

The Lady Flames lost to NLC opponent Davidson Sunday, despite holding a 4-3 lead in the first period. Crowley led the Lady Flames with four goals, and goalie Kristen Masullo made 13 saves. The loss takes the Lady Flames to 5-7 on the season and 2-3 in conference play.

Alumna signs with WNBA team

Liberty graduate and women's basketball standout Megan Frazee signed with the WNBA's Washington Mystics. Frazee spend the last two seasons with the San Antonio Stars, as well as in the Turkish Women's Basketball League.

Frazee and last year's No. 1 Eastern Conference seed begin preseason play May 25 against the New York Liberty.



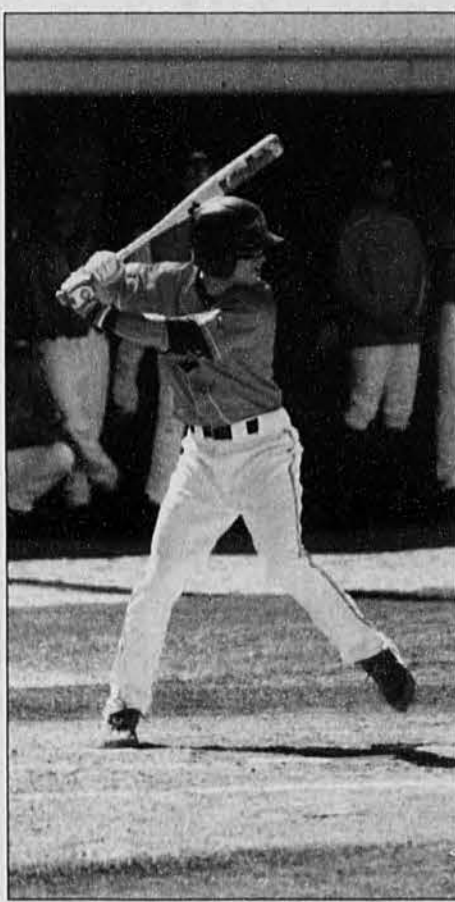
FRAZEE

Baseball takes two of four

The Flames baseball team fell the James Madison Dukes Wednesday at home in a hard-fought 16-12 slugfest. The loss dropped Liberty to 15-15 on the season. With high wind gusts, seven combined home runs were recorded. JMU, which leads the country in home runs, hit five out of the park. Despite the loss, left fielder Doug Bream had a career day with four singles and a double. Third baseman Tyler Bream, designated hitter Justin Sizemore, catcher Casey Rasmus and second baseman Austin Taylor each recorded two hits.

The Flames traveled to High Point for a three-game conference series. Liberty dropped its first game, 6-2, but came back Saturday night, blanking the Panthers 9-0. Starting pitcher John Niggli pitched eight solid innings for the Flames, keeping High Point off the scoreboard. Sunday's game looked bleak, but a strong comeback in the ninth inning pushed the Flames to a 12-9 victory over High Point. The Flames scored seven runs on seven hits in the ninth, batting around the Panthers relief pitching.

The win takes the Flames to 17-16 on the season and 7-5 in the Big South Conference.



BERAH LOHR

SLUGGERS — Second baseman Zach Haley waits for his pitch.

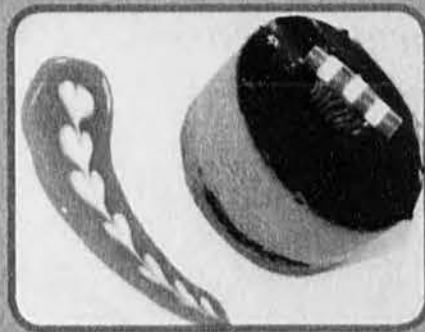
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editorial

How to stay busy in a lockout

ANDREW GULA
jagula@liberty.edu

If you had \$20 million sitting in a bank account, what would you do?

Would you find your dream job and do it, no matter the pay? Would you devote your time to charitable organizations while your good fortune lasted? Or, as I think many of us probably would, would you enjoy the high life and live like royalty?

There are about 1,600 people in this situation who have suddenly found themselves with more free time than they have any idea what to do with.

Thank you, NFL lockout.

It has been about one month since the lockout started, and progress is moving at a crawl. Most of the players have begun finding other things to do with their time and money.

Unfortunately, there are those who have fallen into legal trouble. Since the lock-out began, there have been a handful of players who have had brushes with the law, but none quite as close to home as Chris Cook.

Cook, a cornerback for the Minnesota Vikings, is spending the offseason at his mother's house here in Lynchburg, according to the Lynchburg News and Advance. Several weeks ago, he got into an argument with a neighbor, whereupon police escorted Cook to the station after he reportedly brandished a gun.

And what has the NFL done? Absolutely nothing, sadly. The NFL's personal conduct policy can't be enforced on players when they aren't in the employment of the NFL — like in a lockout,



GOOGLE IMAGES

KICKING AWAY THE TIME — Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver Chad Ochocinco chose to stay active during the current NFL lockout by playing with the Kansas City Sporting soccer team.

for example.

The NFL still intends to enforce the policy once the lockout is over, though. Any players with legal issues during the lockout will face consequences when the season resumes.

"The personal conduct of players and employees is an integrity-of-the-game issue," NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said in a FOXsports.com article. "Any misconduct that is detrimental to the integrity of and public confidence in the NFL will certainly be addressed when play resumes."

Despite examples of misconduct during the NFL's current lull, other players are using the extra time to enrich the lives of others. Texans' defensive tackle Amobi Okoye has spent the past few weeks in Nigeria overseeing the finalizing of a national football federation — the first on the

entire African continent.

"Seeing American football played in Nigeria and in other countries in Africa is a dream come true for me," Okoye said in an NFL.com article. "In wider world, it will benefit communities and young people by teaching the values of teamwork and dedication, and create opportunities to succeed."

Other players have spent time in Uganda and Rwanda with an organization called Pros for Africa providing food and medical supplies to women and children who have become victims of war and disease.

Still another player has decided to pick up a different kind of football in lieu of his American pigskin.

Chad Ochocinco has decided to try his hand at professional soccer. In March, he enjoyed a week-long tryout with the Sporting Kansas

City soccer club.

"It's been a dream come true for me to be on the pitch, man, with so many of these guys who are elite athletes at the top of their game. I enjoyed it," Ochocinco said in an ESPN.com article.

After his first match for the reserve team, the Cincinnati Bengals wide-out wasn't exactly the next Ronaldo. But that's not what matters to him.

What matters is that Ochocinco is staying busy and active during the lockout.

"Staying out of trouble," Ochocinco said in an NFL network interview.

It is also something of a lesson for the other NFL players to take to heart, especially those who aren't being proactive with their spare time.

"Why sit at home for the lockout? Just keep on working until it gets resolved,"

NFLPA History

JESSICA GRIGG
jgrigg@liberty.edu

The NFL Players Association (NFLPA), founded in 1956, did not earn recognition as a players union until 12 years later, according to ESPN.com. It was in 1968 that the NFLPA first threatened a strike but was instead locked out for a week, creating the first collective agreement.

Due to the previous agreement of the AFL players, the NFLPA players were forced to accept salaries that were less than expected at the owner's demands.

In May 2008, the owners decided to back out of their collective bargaining agreement, which was decided in 2006, and play through the 2010 season without a bargaining agreement plan. This means that there was no salary cap. The plan's expiration date was scheduled for March 3, 2011, but both parties had agreed to a one-week extension.

Despite the extension, the NFLPA decertified as a union, and led the owners to impose a lockout.

A group of players led by

Tom Brady, Drew Brees and others became plaintiffs in an antitrust lawsuit against the league. Executive director Demaurice Smith said he thinks owners are ready to lockout players for the 2011 season.

The NFL players are fighting a proposed salary decrease by the owners. The players are currently receiving 60 percent of the revenue of the NFL's \$9 billion, which was a part of the 2006 agreement.

The argument is that with the struggling economy, which has undoubtedly led to a decrease in ticket sales and merchandise, players' pay is unreasonable.

The proposed increase in games, from 16 to 18, for the 2011 season is also an issue in the lockout negotiations. Most players are against this increase, especially if the extra games comes with no extra pay. Players have also expressed concern of safety with the increase in games. They have said that increasing the season is in direct opposition to the increased spotlight on player safety.

◆ GRIGG is a sports writer.

Ochocinco said according to ESPN.com.

So, as strange as it might sound, maybe it would be better if the NFL players just

listened to Ochocinco's advice for once.

◆ GULA is an opinion writer.



LES SCHOFER

SWEEPING THE COURT — Carol Lobel and the Lady Flames tennis team won all three matches this week.

TENNIS continued from B1

The Lady Flames gave no mercy to the Lady Highlanders allowing them little to no points in their matches.

No. 5 singles player junior Carol Lobel won all her games giving her a match score of 6-0 and 6-0 and notching her 13th singles victory this season. No. 1 singles senior Jordan Jenkins and No. 6 singles freshman Annisha Domené both crushed their opponent 6-0, 6-1.

The Lady Flames doubles teams followed suit with the No. 1 of Jenkins and senior Hannah Fick defeating Radford 8-4. No. 2 doubles pair, freshman Cameron Richard and freshman

Alexandra Sheeran, won their match 8-3, and the No. 3 doubles team of Lobel and senior Valeriya Klintsevich defeated their Lady Highlander opponents 8-2.

Both teams have remaining matches before the Big South Championship, which starts April 20, and the NCAA Championship on May 8.

They face a final conference challenge against UNC Asheville on April 16. The players are preparing on and off the courts for the finale of their season, working on their individual games as well and strengthening and conditioning in the weight room.

◆ VANDEN BROOK is a sports writer.

SOFTBALL continued from B1

This strategy caused the Lady Flames to hit the ball well, accumulating nine runs and ending the game in the sixth inning with a final score of 9-1.

"Kelly (Strickland) had the two-run homer to begin with and she got us started," Wetmore said. "Then Benny's grand slam was big, but at the end there, Kelly just stepped up and finished the game with a three-run triple. It was big, it was really big."

According to Wetmore, the team's goal was to sweep at home against Charleston Southern. They were not able to accomplish just that, but the team's performance was a complete turnaround from game one to games two and three. Winning the second game of the double-header and Saturday's game, 4-1, was really significant for the team, according to Bensinger.

"It just really sends a message to other teams and just lets them know that we

mean business," Bensinger said. "We're going for the Big South Championship this year and no matter what happens, we're just going to bounce back."

After the weekend's series the Lady Flames have a 14-17 record for the season and a 5-3 record in the Big South Conference. The team will next travel to Harrisonburg to face James Madison for a two-game series on April 13.

◆ LACAZE is a sports writer.

fyi

◆ Check out an updated version of last week's "Wrestling Reclassified" article on libertychampion.com.

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Phantom of the Opera



TIFFANY EDWARDS | FEATURE EDITOR
tedwards2@liberty.edu

Those who have not seen the Liberty Department of Theatre Arts (DTA) performance of "The Phantom of the Opera" should prepare themselves for an extravagant display of sight, sound and skill by the cast and technical crew. After preparing and advertising months in advance, the show sold out 17 performances.

"The Phantom of the Opera" opened Friday, April 8 for eager throngs of students, community members, families and even tour buses full of fans that traveled from out of state to witness the largest production produced in the new Tower Theater, according to director Linda Nell Cooper. The show stars Davis Mercer as the Phantom, Rachel Davas as Christine and Caleb Hughes as Christine's fiancé Raoul.

Costume assistant T.C. Williams has worked in the Theatre Arts costume shop since July, and is also the wardrobe manager for "The Phantom of the Opera," which makes it his responsibility to oversee the actor's costume changes during the performance.

"The Phantom of the Opera" has been the biggest challenge compared to other productions, mainly because of the number of costumes that we're renting, which is roughly 210," Williams said. "I and the three other people who work in the costume shop have been working on special pieces for the show, which is wonderful because this allows us to make the show our own."

According to Williams, the DTA has worked to give the production a unique "Liberty Theatre" style, as opposed to following the traditional Broadway format.

"This weekend was a great opening weekend," Cooper said. "Our best performance was actually the Sunday matinee. Normally by that time, the students are tired from practicing and performing all week. But this time, the cast had a solid performance."

Cooper said that all performances are sold out, but people still looking for tickets can visit the Tower Theater box office roughly 30 minutes before a performance starts to see if there are any cancellations for reserved tickets. For more information about the play or the Department of Theatre Arts, visit the website at liberty.edu/theatre.



The Phantom, played by Davis Mercer, sabotages the opera house until the owners give in to his demands.



Christine and Raoul, sweethearts since childhood, are threatened by the Phantom's fixation with Christine.



The Department of Theatre Arts rented roughly 210 costumes for the opera, and the costume shop created custom costumes and accessories, including hairpieces.

Father, son survive loss of family

JONATHAN PARKER
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Ray Jones stumbled across a marked up degree completion plan for Liberty University.

His wife, Jill, who died in a car crash months earlier, had already filled in the courses he completed at other colleges.

"Even from beyond, she is still telling me what to do," Jones said with a smile.

After losing his wife and son, Nicholas, in a car crash last August, Jones left his construction job and enrolled in Liberty's online program with sights set on teaching.

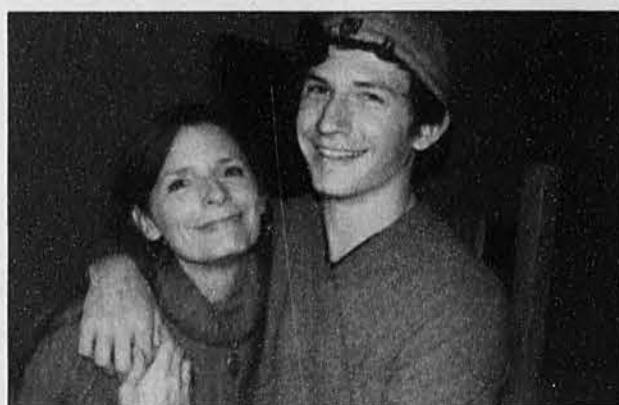
He and his wife often talked about him going back to college and teaching.

"She'd want me to be happy, whether it was teaching or digging ditches," Jones said.

Jill Jones and her son, Nicholas "Niko," died when a drunk driver ran a red light and plowed into their car on the way home from visiting family in Illinois last August.

A Roanoke County jury found the driver, Paul Harris, guilty of two counts of aggravated involuntary manslaughter, one count of maiming while driving under the influence and one count driving under the influence. The jury recommended a prison sentence of 38 years Friday.

Over the last nine months, Jones and his son, Raymond, a senior at Liberty Christian Academy, have often talked



EXPLOSION OF LIFE — Education professor Jill Jones and son, Niko, were killed in an August car crash. Top left, Ray and Jill Jones took sons, Niko and Raymond, horseback riding on Easter Sunday. Above right, Raymond and Niko surprise their dad, Ray, for Father's Day last year.

about the crash and the loss of Jill and Niko.

"The hardest part is, as a human, you are trying to wrap your mind around the 'why,'" Jones said.

'Explosion of life'

A wide smile stretches across Jones' face when he talks about his "better half."

"She made me a better dad, a better husband,"

Jones, who met his wife at a Christian youth center in Illinois, said. "Jill's my better half."

Not one to waste the day, Jill Jones spent time each morning in prayer before preparing for a busy load of tasks.

"She was more driven and motivated than anyone I've ever known," Jones said. "She was such an explosion of life."

A beloved professor in Liberty's education department, Jill Jones encouraged others with kind words and an eagerness to help.

"She was just such a bright star and person," her husband said. "She loved life."

'It was all upside for him'

Niko Jones became fascinated with medicine after hearing about his father's recovery from a fall in 1992.

"He liked the idea of literally being able to fix a bone," Ray Jones said. "He loved the idea of fixing people."

Niko Jones also enjoyed comedy. Ray and Raymond often hear a joke and think of him.

"He could quote jokes and crack anybody up," his father said.

Niko was also a gifted student.

"He loved learning, but he didn't want you to know he was that smart," Ray Jones said. "It was all upside for him. He was just 16 years old. He had nothing but potential ahead of him."

'Some days it makes you smile'

Soon after losing his wife and son, Ray Jones began pulling photos out of albums and framing them. He enlarged old family photos, lining his basement stairway and bedroom with snapshots.

"There were just so many great times," Jones said. "I thought, 'how am I going to remember all the great times?'"

Jones points to a photo of the four riding horses on Easter Sunday.

"Some days it kills you and some days it makes you smile," Jones said.

'The pain doesn't go away'

Some days it kills you and some days it makes you smile.

— Ray Jones

The family sat through Harris' four-day jury trial in Roanoke County this week.

Jurors reached a guilty verdict and recommended a sentence Friday afternoon.

"I don't feel any better that the trial is over," Jones said. "The pain doesn't go away. It doesn't end. It just changes."

Jones finds peace in knowing the legal process is over.

"Now I'm not sitting there thinking this guy could get out in a few months," Jones said. "There's not a sentence long enough to satisfy me, but it came close."

'There is that greater purpose'

Jones struggles with understanding the reasons for the Lord taking his wife and son.

He often thinks about meeting them in Heaven.

"In my mind, I don't know why, but Niko comes over, (to me) and it's that awesome thing," Jones said, fighting back tears. "In my mind's eye, that's how it plays out and then I get to understand. That's what you hold hope for."

The family received an outpouring of love from the university, school and church.

"I still get cards from people I don't know," Jones said, adding emails and Facebook messages continue to pour in.

Some of Jill Jones' fifth grade students from Illinois wrote the family.

"They were saying,

"Twenty years ago, she impacted my life," Jones said. "You get those little glimpses of the impact their lives had. There is that greater purpose."

'We are going to survive this'

Jones said the family's faith in God has strengthened them.

"It's easy to know the answers," Jones said. "It's hard when that's tested and you have to practice the answers. It's a lot tougher to practice them when you have had to endure what we have."

Father and son share a similar path. Raymond plans to enroll in Liberty and hopes to play football this fall. His dad will continue online classes in hopes of teaching high school history or business classes and coaching sports.

Ray and Raymond view the rest of life the same way.

"I'd love to have a 20-year plan," Jones said. "I know in the last year, my plan didn't go as anticipated."

They have pulled together, linked by love, tragedy and hope.

"Sometimes the difference between saying something and doing it is so vast," Jones said. "You make the decision you are going to survive this, but it's how you implement that decision. For us, it's just saying, 'We don't know how it turns out, but we are going to survive this.'"

◆ PARKER is a feature writer.

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Downtown soul: Jimmy's On The James

BECKY OGRAM
rogram@liberty.edu

The room was full of attentive listeners as Jim Dudley sat down to the piano late Thursday evening. Dudley makes a regular appearance behind the microphone and piano in Jimmy's On The James, a southern American bistro.

Jimmy's On The James, named after owner, Jim Dudley, is an upscale restaurant downtown on Commerce Street. The nightly live music and fresh food is what keeps Lynchburg coming back for more.

Although they have only been open since Oct. 1, 2010, Jimmy's On The James is packed out every weekend, according to Dudley. Reservations are required on the weekends and are recommended during the week.

"We (Jimmy's On The James) fill up our reservations a day or two before the weekend and sometimes even before that," said Bob Rygeilski, manager at Jimmy's On The James.

Jimmy's seats only 50, and the menu features various American meat and seafood dishes, and is open



ASHLEY ELIA

EPICURIUS ADVENTURES — Jimmy's On The James features live music every night, including its in-house talent, Jim Dudley.

Tuesday through Saturday from 5 p.m. until they close.

"Business influences closing time.

We never close early and 90 percent of the time we stay open until 2 a.m.,"

Rygeilski said.

The music at Jimmy's is live every night with local talent, which includes pianists, saxophonists and

singers, as well as their in-house talent, Jim Dudley. According to Dudley, many customers have compared him to "Ol' Blue Eyes," Frank Sinatra.

Rygeilski described the music at Jimmy's to be "American songbook" with jazz. Jimmy's features local talent. Jimmy's typically serves customers ages 16 to 80.

"Everybody loves it, which makes for an eclectic clientele," Rygeilski said.

Dudley had previously owned Southern Culture, a restaurant in Richmond, Va., in the 1990s. He sold the restaurant and moved to Florida to pursue his passion in acting and singing. Dudley moved back to Lynchburg to be closer to his parents.

Jimmy's On The James remains active in the community and has given to several charitable causes in Lynchburg, including the Jubilee Family Development Center and the Academy of Fine Arts.

For more information, visit jimmysonthexames.com.

◆ OGRAM is a feature writer.

out & about

Events to **LOOK OUT** for in the next few weeks.

April 13

Annual Assessment Day

This year, Assessment Day is being referred to as "A-Day." Classes and convocation will not be held with the exception of classes that are only held on Wednesday. Assessment activities have been planned for the entire day. Emails have been sent to students informing them of each specific activity that they are required to attend. Participants will be eligible to win prizes. For more information, visit the A-Day website which can be found through the Splash page.

April 15

Liberty University Night at the ballpark

Student Activities will be hosting a night with the Lynchburg Hillcats on Friday. Gates open at 5 p.m. and the game begins at 6:05 p.m. There is no cost for Liberty students, faculty and staff with a valid ID and there will be fireworks after the game. For more information, contact student activities at 434-592-3061 or studentactivitiesinfo@liberty.edu.

April 15 and 16

Whitewater Rafting Trip

Student Activities is sponsoring a whitewater rafting trip in New River, W.Va. Departure is 4:30 p.m. on Friday, April 15. The bus will be returning to campus around 11 p.m. on Saturday, April 16. The total cost for the trip is \$25. This includes transportation, lodging,

rafting and breakfast and lunch on Saturday. For more information or to register, stop by the Student Activities Office between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

April 16

Junior/Senior Gala

The Student Government Association (SGA) is hosting a Phantom of the Opera Masquerade from 8:30 p.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Williams Stadium Club Pavillion. The night will feature entertainment, food, drinks and performances. The event is formal and attendees are requested to wear gowns and tuxedos. Tickets are \$15 with \$5 of each ticket being donated toward the senior class gift. Each ticket comes with a mask and can be purchased at the Vines Center ticket office or online at ticketreturn.com. For more information, contact SGA at 434-582-2323 or sga@liberty.edu.

April 16

Seabird in Concert

Student Activities will be hosting a free concert at the Tilley Student Center starting at 9 p.m. Seabird will be performing for the night. For more information, contact student activities at 434-592-3061 or studentactivitiesinfo@liberty.edu.

April 26

CPR/First Aid Training

Registration is open for the upcoming CPR training classes on April 26. Participants have two class times to choose from — 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. or 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. and will receive a two-

year certification card in CPR and first aid. For more information or to register email cpce@liberty.edu.

Salvation Army seeking volunteers

The Salvation Army is continually seeking volunteers. Volunteers can

assist with programs such as — Noah's Ark Day Care, the soup kitchen and property maintenance.

The Salvation Army is located at 2215 Park Ave., Lynchburg, Va. For more information, call 434-845-5939 or visit uss.salvationarmy.org.

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Liberty Dining Services would like to thank all of you who participated in our Dessert Competition. The winners are below.

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• Morgan Baker



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SHELANNE JENNINGS
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Men in ties and buttoned suits accompanied flawlessly styled women as the elevator attendants opened doors to the third floor event. Cameras flashed on a red carpet which sprawled out in front of a large black and white backdrop. The 16th Annual Achievement Awards were underway at the Williams Stadium Club Pavilion, Saturday, April 9, and everyone was a star. Guests ate full four-course meals as announcers honored those students, alumni and faculty who have embodied the mission of Liberty University as ethnic minority and international students.

The Center for Multicultural Enrichment (Center4ME), whose mission statement is to "unify the various cultural and ethnic populations on the campus by overcoming divisions," honored students, staff and alumni for their dedication to the enrichment and support of ethnic diversity, exemplary biblical integrity, academic excellence and Christian service.

"All of our nominees and finalists were just great," said Center for ME's Director Melany Pearl.

A record 4,407 votes were cast through an online system on Liberty's website to decide the winners of three of the night's awards.

The Faculty/Staff of the Year award went to Professor J.J. Cole who teaches freshman seminar and a stress management workshop at Liberty. According to Cole's biography, she is an active supporter of Center4ME. Though



WILSON



BEKAH LOHR

RED CARPET AFFAIR — Nominees for achievement awards were chosen based on GPA, upstanding behavior and commitment to Christian character.

she could not be at the awards ceremony, she was honored and said "culture is important to who we are and sociology should be applied. It needs to be felt."

The Freshman of the Year award went to Sharon Chimere-Dan who is an international student from Johannesburg, South Africa. In addition to meeting the award requirements of having a 3.5 GPA or higher, having less than eight reprimands in a single semester and excelling in Christian Character, Chimere-Dan participates in campus programs including Campus Serve, intramural sports and Student Media Productions.

"I was surprised at winning, but pleasantly surprised," Chimere-Dan said after receiving her award. "I'm really grateful they take the time to do things like this. Sometimes it can feel like no one cares. Even though you know that God's watching, it's nice to know that other people do take notice and want to encourage you in doing those things."

The Christian Service Award was received

by junior Lucas Wilson, a Canadian student from Toronto, Ontario. Wilson, who has traveled to Tanzania and Zanzibar with Extreme Impact Ministries, is currently a volunteer tutor with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Lynchburg and acts as a student ambassador for Liberty in Canada, finds it important to involve international students in Center4ME events.

"I think it is important that international students are also included in the awards ceremony," Wilson said. "I think that although Americans would not be able to tell that I am not American, there is a cultural barrier between other students and ourselves, so I appreciate being included."

The Achievement Award was given to Carolyn Marcelo, a graduating senior. Marcelo has served as a prayer leader and is actively involved at Thomas Road Baptist Church (TRBC) as a choir singer.

Marcelo choked back tears as she received her award, feeling thankful for the school and

how the Lord has brought her to this point.

"I was really honoured to be involved all four years. I am just blessed to just have come here, to Liberty," Marcelo said. "I always thought I would go to another school, but God had other plans."

Marcelo referenced her life verse in gratitude to God, Luke 1:37.

"God's plans are not to harm you," Marcelo said. "He has a purpose for your life."

Marcelo expressed appreciation to the Center4ME and their dedication to putting on the Achievement Awards event.

"It's nice having all this support no matter what background you are," Marcelo said. "It reminds you that no matter what background you are, it's always possible to do great things."

Pearl encourages all students to become involved in Center4ME events, no matter what citizenship and cultural background.

"One misnomer about the Center for Multicultural Enrichment is that we are here for students of color or ethnic minority but we really are here for the entire campus community and our internationals as well," Pearl said. "We really are an office for everyone. We are about promoting unity and celebrating cultural diversity, and as a body of Christ, we need to understand and each other and celebrate each other and not be divided."

Center4ME hosts a variety of events from movie nights, to discussion forums to upscale events like the Achievement Awards Ceremony.

"We do things that everyone is invited to," Pearl said. "If we have a Hispanic heritage month event, we may have Native Americans there or if I am there as an African American, that is when the learning and education happens."

To find out more about Center4ME and their future events visit center4me@liberty.edu or call 434-592-4020.

◆ JENNINGS is a feature writer.

In her own words: Jenna Sailsbury shares her story of survival

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Senior Jenna Sailsbury has spent much of her life in and out of hospitals. At the age of 11, she was diagnosed a few days after Christmas in 1998 with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL), with a Philadelphia positive chromosome.

"I had been sick with strep throat at two different times," Jenna said. "After an enlarged spleen and lots of blood tests, I was diagnosed with the leukemia."

Jenna was then sent to the Medical College of Virginia at Virginia Commonwealth University (MCV VCU), where the diagnosis was finally made. Jenna endured six months of extreme chemotherapy with major complications. During that time, she learned that she had a rare form of leukemia and the chemotherapy alone would not cure it.

"The doctors told me that I had only a 5 percent chance of survival without a bone marrow transplant and a 33 percent chance of survival with a transplant," Jenna said. "(The transplant) was my only option, so we searched all over the world for a bone marrow match."

According to Jenna, her family and friends held the largest bone marrow drive in Virginia at that time. Her family and friends approached Jerry Falwell Sr. and asked if they could hold a drive on Liberty University's campus. According to Jenna, he graciously welcomed this and a drive was held with thousands of students coming out to give their blood in hopes of being a match.

"It was during this time that we found out I also had a rare DNA," Jenna said. "The doctors were not going to be able to find a bone mar-

row match for me."

When it seemed that Jenna was running out of options and hope for survival, her aunt found an article that could possibly change everything.

"My aunt was actually looking through a 'Better Homes and Garden' magazine when she came across an article about cord blood transplants," Jenna said. "She called and spoke with the head cord blood specialist in the world, Dr. Joanne Kurtzberg at Duke University Hospital, and she said 'Bring her down here right away.'"

When Jenna and her family arrived at Duke, they were given a full page of possible matches. They were blown away with the hope they now had for the first time.

Aug. 3, 1999

Jenna received an umbilical cord blood transplant at Duke University Hospital in Durham, N.C.

Before the transplant, Jenna underwent chemotherapy and total body irradiation. Following the transplant, Jenna went through years of many complications, surgeries and near death experiences.

Although she missed all of middle school, only attended two full years of high school and had to wait a year before starting college, Jenna was able to begin taking classes at a community college in the fall of 2006 and transferred to Liberty a year and a half later.

"I was finally at Liberty, loving it and enjoying life, and then on December 29, 2009 tragedy struck my life again," Jenna said.

Dec. 29, 2009

Jenna was taken to the emergency room at Johnston Willis Hospital



PHOTO PROVIDED

FROM HER HEART — Jenna expressed gratitude for all the students' prayers during her recovery.

in Richmond, Va. According to Jenna, she had been suffering with a continuous headache for a couple of weeks. After CAT scans were performed, Jenna and her family were informed that not only did she have two bleeds in her brain, a little less than golf ball size, but she had suffered a stroke.

Jan. 30, 2010

Jenna's condition deteriorated. According to Jenna, the doctors could not figure out why her brain was bleeding and at this point the swelling had become so severe that her right hemisphere was going into her left hemisphere. Throughout her journey, Jenna's mother, Kay, kept an online journal to keep friends and family informed along the way. On Jan. 30, 2010 at 12:44 a.m., the short entry reads, "Please pray. Jenna is not responding as she should. All her vitals are good except her blood pressure, very high. Please pray for her to wake up good."

Jan. 30, 2010, 6 p.m.

Jenna was rushed into surgery. Her condition was rapidly getting worse, and she was unresponsive.

The surgeons preformed a craniotomy, trying to remove the bleed and relieve the swelling. According to Jenna, thousands were praying at the exact moment the surgery was taking place, including students at Liberty, and God mercifully answered these prayers. There were many months of complications, slow recuperation and therapies following the surgery.

Also, during this time, Jenna began to lose her hair. She was told by a specialist that when your body goes through trauma it saves the most vital organs first. Hair and nails are at the bottom of the list.

"This was a really emotional thing to go through, losing my hair, while I was still trying to fight back after the brain surgery and complications," Jenna said. "I (thought), 'Great, I'm 22 years old, and who at 22 has had to lose their hair twice.'"

Jenna had lost her hair once before while undergoing treatment for leukemia.

"My brothers shaved their heads to try and help me through this tough time," Jenna said.

Jan. 16, 2011

Jenna returned to Liberty to complete her senior year. It had been six years since she began her college career.

"It's amazing to see where I've come from, from a year ago to now," Jenna said. "I shouldn't be sitting here, but it just goes to show you how powerful God is."

While Jenna was in the hospital, she received letters and tokens of encouragement and support, many of which came from her Liberty family.

"My family would read me things from Facebook and letters even if I wasn't awake," Jenna said. "When I heard about it, I couldn't believe it. I couldn't believe that they were praying for me every convocation — that blew my mind."

Jenna expressed gratitude and appreciation to her Liberty family.

"Thank you," she said. "I think a lot of times people don't see how their prayers are being answered so they don't take prayer seriously. God is listening. I very well may not be here if it weren't for all the student's prayers for me. There are no adequate words to express my gratitude but from the bottom of my heart I do thank you so much."

◆ SMITH is the asst. feature editor.