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Zumbathon

B10



Dew Invitational

B1

LIBERTY CHAMPION

Today: P. Cloudy 72/54 Tomorrow: P. Cloudy 69/53

Tuesday, April 30, 2013

libertychampion.com

Volume 30 • Issue 22

library construction



RUTH BIBBY | LIBERTY CHAMPION

EDUCATION — Construction workers stand at the bottom of what will be the Library's four-story book tower. This tower will be the architectural focus and house more than 50,000 books.

Policy change

Attendance revised

By Greg Leasure
gleasure@liberty.edu

Liberty University Chancellor Jerry Falwell Jr. announced Wednesday, April 24, via his Facebook page, that the school's administration, along with the Student Government Association, had chosen to revise its attendance policy, effective immediately.

The change gives students four unexcused absences in classes that meet three times per week and three unexcused absences for classes meeting two times per week. The policy for classes meeting once a week will stay the same.

"The policy that we had was a little too strict, so I'm glad I was able to make the change and help the students out a little bit before the end of the year," Falwell said.

According to Liberty Senior Class President Chad Atchison, the Student Government Association had been attempting to change the policy since it went into effect more than two years ago, and talks intensified when Falwell decided to review the policy in detail earlier in the spring 2013 semester.

"It's sort of my end of the year gift to the students," Falwell said.

See ATTENDANCE, A10

FBI comes to Liberty

Lauren Creekmore
lcreekmore@liberty.edu

"One minute you can be doing financial analyst work, and the next second you can be pulled into another office to help with a murder investigation or drug investigation, which is what happened to me," Cara Kast said.

Kast made an appearance at Liberty Wednesday night, April 25 in DeMoss Hall room 1113 to talk to students about what the FBI is really like. According to Kast, she has worked for the FBI for two years doing multiple things, and is currently working towards becoming a field agent.

Almost 50 students gathered to listen to Kast and her stories on what it has been like for her in the FBI.

"You are never bored — things change very quickly," Kast said.

"So what do we actually do? Well we protect the United States from terrorist attacks, from foreign intelligence operations and espionage. We protect the United States against cyber based attacks and high technology crimes, we combat public corruption and we protect civil rights," Kast said.

See FBI, A10

Enosis movement begins

Timothy Riordan starts a project for Liberty students to showcase original songs

Cecilia Hines
chines2@liberty.edu

The new project Enosis by Liberty Campus Praise Band member Timothy Riordan was announced via Facebook March 21.

The project, entitled "Enosis," which is the Greek for "union," is a collaboration of talent amongst Liberty University songwriters, according to the group's Facebook page. "With Enosis, we can provide an opportunity for students to collaborate on a personal level with music production," Riordan said. "We are looking to create a worship album that has relationship in mind, not just excellent musicianship."

According to Riordan, a meeting with about 60 songwriters they know was held at the prayer chapel. Prayer and worship took place, asking

God to give them the creativity and momentum to create the album. From this meeting, a promotional video was created as well as a Facebook page to reach out to even more students.

"We must ask ourselves, 'Does our school of 13,000 followers of Christ contain the potential to produce 12 songs that could impact the world?' I believe the answer to that is yes," Riordan said. "We have over 100 writers at this school. If each writer has written an average of 10 songs each, we will have 1,000 songs to choose from."

Riordan has a recording studio in Lynchburg that does the recording for many artists on campus, such as 71 and Exodus, and sees a lot of talent that comes through, both in songwriting and singing. From this, he wanted to take advantage of all the talent that



JAKE MITCHELL | LIBERTY CHAMPION

MUSIC — Students collaborated to make the album.

Liberty has to offer.

"Enosis is just one of the many great results of a vision that Jerry Falwell birthed back in 1971," Riordan said. "We want to see God glorified

through the excellent songwriting skills of the student body and see it impact the world for Christ."

See ENOSIS, A10

INSIDE THE CHAMPION

News

Kara Wheeler conquers obstacles and will be graduating this May. **A2**

Sports

Men's lacrosse team wins its first SELC Championship. **B1**

Feature

Bruce Kirk receives Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. **B9**

■ News	A1
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■ Sports	B1
■ Feature	B12

Summer elections

Democrat primary election is scheduled for June 11

Sophia Hahn
shahn3@liberty.edu

Virginia's primary elections are scheduled to take place May 7 for the Republicans and June 11 for the Democrats. During this time, candidates will be nominated for the November general election.

Liberty alumnus Zach Martin is running in the Bedford County Republican primary elections for the 19th District House of Delegates. The seat opened when Lacey Putney retired this spring.

"There is no Democrat who has declared to run," a Republican spokesperson said.

According to the City of Lynchburg's website, the election is for both Republican and Democratic candidates. The Democrats will be voting on nominees for Governor, Lieutenant General and Attorney General while the Republicans will be electing new House of Delegates members.

"This year, the Republicans decided to hold a convention instead of a primary, so voters will not take part in nominating candidates like they will for the Democratic Party," a Voters' Registration employee said.

The only person running for the Democratic nomination in the gubernatorial election is Terry McAuliffe. His opponent from the Republican Party is Ken Cuccinelli. Because both of these candidates were the only ones to qualify for this position, no primary election will be necessary, according to the City of Lynchburg's website.

The two Democrats up for nomination for Lieutenant General are Ralph Northam and Aneesh Chopra. The Lieutenant General holds a very important position in the Virginia Senate.

"With an even split between Democrats and Republicans in the Virginia Senate, the Lieutenant Governor will be tasked with casting the tie-breaking vote on key legislation impacting the Commonwealth," according to Northam's official site.

The Democrats have also nominated two candidates for Attorney General: Justin Fairfax and Mark Herring.

It is important for people to get involved in voting for local politicians, as voting is a freedom that many countries do not have. For more information on the election, visit Lynchburg's official website, Lynchburgva.gov.

HAHN is the news editor.

Champion corrections

Battle of the Bands photos were taken by Jake Mitchell.

Track long jump photo of Kyle Wheeler was taken by Ruth Bibby.

J.J. Cole worked at LGH from 1984-1989 and then worked with the City of Lynchburg with court-involved youth for 12 years before coming to Liberty. She currently does not guide young girls through the adoption process. After leaving the city to homeshool, she was offered her teaching position.

Family Life Services should have been capitalized.

Relay for Life



COURTNEY RUSSO | LIBERTY CHAMPION

WALK — Professor Terry Metzger and Liberty Senior Photographer Les Schofer take part in the survivors walk at Relay for Life, which was held at Liberty, Friday, April 26.

Wheeler defies the odds

After years of people telling her she never could, Kara will graduate this May

Emily Webster
ewebster@liberty.edu

Kara Wheeler, an early childhood development major, will be graduating from Liberty University May 2013, defying the odds and the predictions of countless naysayers who told her that this feat would not be possible.

Born 14 weeks early and weighing a mere 1 pound, 15 ounces, Kara was diagnosed with a mild form of cerebral palsy at age four. The daughter of Professor of Evangelism David Wheeler, Kara said that whenever someone told her that she would not be able to graduate high school or go to college, she knew that she would find a way to prove them wrong.

Before Kara arrived at Liberty, David said that he and his wife did not know what to expect for their daughter's time in college.

"We always taught our kids to pursue excellence, not perfection," David said. "We just wanted Kara to apply herself and do the best she could. She is a very social person, and so we knew she needed to live on campus and have friends. We wanted her to enjoy the college life and ... for God to be able to work in her and show her what it is he wanted her to do."

Kara wanted to spend her life working with preschoolers at a day care, but after going on a missions trip to the Philippines, she knew that God was changing her heart.

"Pretty much throughout the mission's trip, the Lord (said), 'Kara, this is your calling. You cannot run away from your calling anymore,'" Kara said, remembering how God had spoken to her. "So I feel like God has called me into the missions field, and in his timing, hopefully after Christmas, I'll be going back to the Philippines where

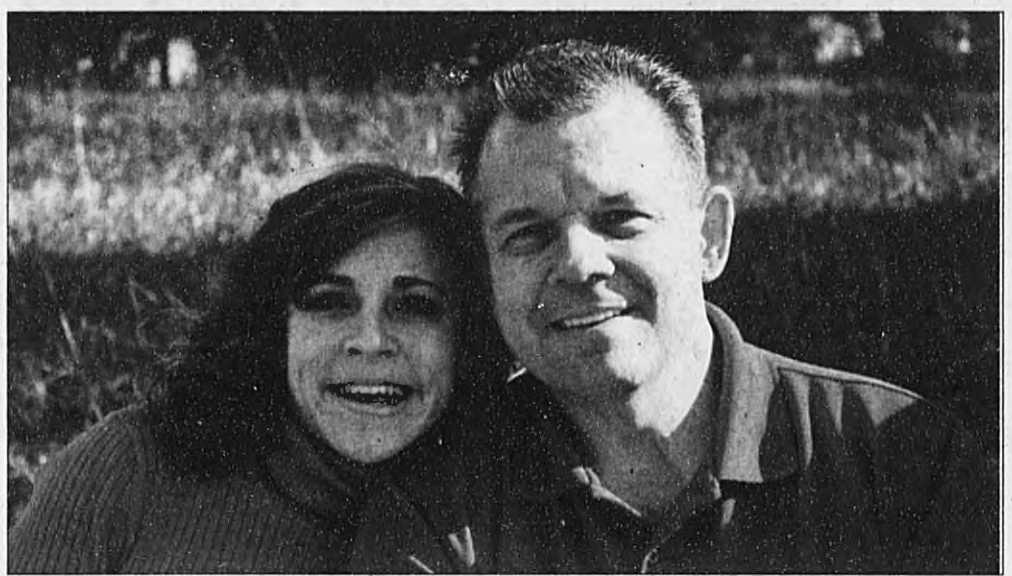


PHOTO PROVIDED

GRADUATION — Kara Wheeler's father, David, supported her throughout her struggles.

I was and (will be) doing an internship. Throughout the internship, I'll hopefully be working with the local school there and develop special needs programs."

Counting down until graduation, Kara said that the hardest part about college has been the work load, and her favorite part has been the friendships that she has made.

"The people that I've met here — I know that we'll be friends for life," Kara said. "And I know that wherever the Lord has me, he will be by my side."

Relationships she has formed not only include her fellow students, but also the professors that have helped her along the way. She said that her Family and Consumer Science (FACS) classes have been her favorite classes, because she has learned essential information for the future.

"To have professors here that will help me with my learning disability and to tell me that they believe in me and that I can do it, it's been really encouraging, because, through the years, many people told me and my parents that I would never graduate and I would never go to college," Kara said.

According to Kara, hav-

ing her dad as a professor at Liberty has been "amazing." She said that she finds him a couple times throughout the week to catch up and talk.

"I love having my dad as a professor," Kara said. "I love having students tell me how great he is and how impactful he is with his teaching, because to be a professor here is his passion, and his passion is to make a difference in his students' lives."

David said that he cannot express how proud he is of his daughter and how she is letting God use her.

"She'll come in between classes ... and give me a hug," David said. "It means the world to me to watch her and to watch the kind of young woman she's become (and) how God's used her to encourage and influence others."

Knowing that his daughter has been able to gain knowledge from the professors and pastors that she has listened to throughout her years at Liberty, David said that he has watched how she has grown and how she encourages and influences those around her.

"I think Kara really represents what it means to be a champion for Christ," David said. "She takes advantage of the things they

have here. She loves it. She pushes it, you know, to the degree of stretching herself and doing all those things. She's been relational. She's grown in amazing ways. She could easily be a walking testimonial of what Liberty's all about."

Attributing where she is today to her family, Kara said that she has overcome challenges by knowing that her family was by her side every step of the way. She said that without them, especially her mother, she would not have been able to accomplish everything she has. She also said that reading her Bible and working on her relationship with God on a daily basis has gotten her through the hardest times.

"Just have those people in your life, especially your family, to support you and just help you through it," Kara said. "It's the most encouraging, especially, to have that relationship with Christ. To be like, 'Alright God, today is hard, but with you, nothing is impossible, with you, everything is possible.'"

WEBSTER is a copy editor.

LIBERTY CHAMPION

1971 UNIVERSITY BLVD, LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA 24502

Tabitha Cassidy
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Greg Leasure
EDITOR IN CHIEF

ADMINISTRATION
Debarah Huff
FACULTY ADVISOR

Omar Adams
ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

Ashley McAlpin
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CONTENT
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ASST. PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

DESIGN
Elliot Mosher
GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Abigail Bock
GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Breann Black
GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Jomer Bunque
WEB DESIGNER

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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Students present ideas at Shark Tank

Sophia Hahn
shahn3@liberty.edu

Liberty University students of various majors presented their company ideas to be picked apart by a panel of judges in hopes of getting an investment at Shark Tank. This event was held by the Association of Marketing Professionals (AMP) Monday, April 22.

At Shark Tank, an event based on the television show by the same name, students tried to get the judges, who were posing as investors with fictitious funds, to either invest in or buy their ideas. Each group had three to five minutes to present its project and sway the judges.

"All of the ideas were really good, but obviously when you are playing a game like this, we are talking about the big bucks," Professor Kurt Cornfield, an assistant professor in the School of Business, said.

Although the judges were not true investors, they treated this as real practice for the students by asking them questions about annual revenue, market penetration and the targeted demographic.

"In business, what you want to look at is how you are going to add value to the customer," Professor Edward Moore of the Business School said.

According to Moore, it is important for the students to see the real potential of their projects and to not oversell or undersell it.

In total, seven ideas were demonstrated. Among these concepts were the top three: a clothing shop for the working girl called Mystique Boutique, a restaurant where people can choose specifically what they want on their waffles called PB&K Waffles, and lastly, a technology that can help monitor and control the access of parking lots, called Smart Parking.

During a short intermission, the audience voted on whom they wanted to win while the judges deliberated the scores.

Smart Parking took first place, winning a \$250 gift certificate and an Anders Ink pen.

According to senior Taylor Rymer, the team leader for Smart Parking, the group's idea was originally intended for their capstone project in the engineer-

ing school.

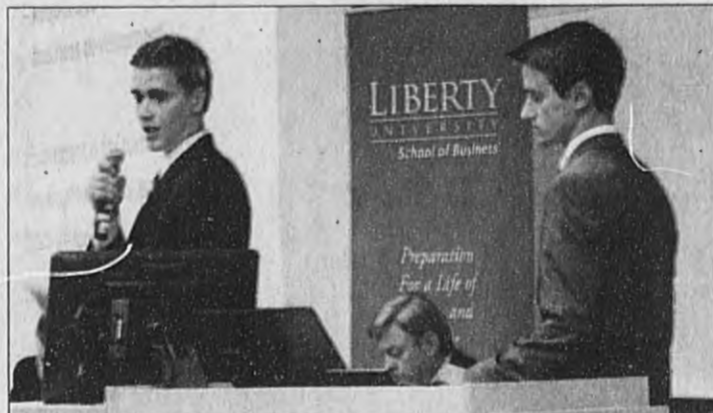
"Whenever we graduate, we have to find a problem that needs to be solved using our real world engineering skills," Rymer said. "We presented this idea to the Liberty University Police Department (LUPD) and they really loved it."

Smart Parking would help LUPD as well as Liberty students by creating an app for Smart Parking to tell when a parking lot is full, according to Rymer.

Rymer said prototype of Smart Parking will be demonstrated May 6 in DeMoss Hall along with other engineering projects.

Before the event ended, professor Kendrick Brunson encouraged students to prepare by practicing their presentation skills.

"This is still the land of opportunity and entrepreneurship," Brunson said. "We want to protect these ideas (from being stolen), especially the younger generations who have a lot of great ideas that we are going to be working with (in the future)."



ABBY KOURKOUNAKIS | LIBERTY CHAMPION
INVEST — Students tried to get a panel of judges to "invest" in their ideas.



ABBY KOURKOUNAKIS | LIBERTY CHAMPION
BUSINESS — Smart Parking took home first place.

HAHN is the news editor.

Liberty student starts Mom's Life ministry

Charlee Tchividjian reaches out to single mothers in the Greenfield area to mentor them through life's struggles

Samantha Boontjer
sbboontjer@liberty.edu

They meet in a small back room in a building off the aptly named Church Street. Greetings fly across the room as the women find seats and joke good-naturedly. Billy Graham would be proud as the room calms down only after his great-granddaughter, Charlee Tchividjian, a Liberty University senior, says, "Let's pray."

Mom's Life is a ministry that Tchividjian started to reach out

to the single moms in the Lynchburg community, specifically the moms from the impoverished Greenfield housing complex. The ministry from Lynchburg's Gospel Community Church acts as a sister to its base organization in Pompano Beach, Fla., according to Tchividjian. Attendance for this particular group varies. On this night, there were seven moms, each with one or two children and their mentors, a huge contrast from the week before when only two moms attended.

According to city tax data

from 2004, the Greenfield district in Lynchburg is one of the most undeveloped parts of the city. Local crime data also shows that, of the 82 registered sex offenders living in the city of Lynchburg and the surrounding areas, 39 live in Greenfield.

Tchividjian has always had a heart to start a ministry like this and work with single mothers.

"I grew up around these types of ministries and single parent homes," Tchividjian said. "I gave my life to the Lord at 17 and immediately wanted to do a minis-

try like His Caring Place."

His Caring Place is a similar ministry based in Florida that Tchividjian worked at while attending high school in the state. This ministry has a special place in her heart, because her grandparents started it. After working with the ministry during high school, Tchividjian started the original Mom's Life at her home church.

"We're just doing what the Bible calls us to do," Haven Wear, a mentor to the single moms and a friend of Tchividjian's, said.

According to Wear, each of the young women in Mom's Life can have one or many mentors. The ministry uses the mentors to focus on building relationships.

"I think it's really cool that girls their own age can pour into their lives and let them know they're there for them," Wear said.

The women range in age from 17 to 23, and some have two or three children already.

BOONTJER is a news reporter.



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Champion Staff: Goodbyes

As part of the 2012-13 Champion staff moves on, they share some of their most memorable experiences inside of the Champion office. Some say goodbye while others look to the future with bright eyes. Either way, these six people will forever be in our hearts.

Thanks guys.

Tess Curtis

The feeling I get as May 11 draws near is truly bittersweet. No longer will I walk these halls, get lost on the fourth floor of DeMoss or eat another bite at the Hangar.

No longer will I see that same group of people at the Rot—those people you see again and again throughout your four years at college but never manage to catch their names.



CURTIS

Well, it is too late to catch them now. I am leaving.

The experience I have had here at Liberty has been simply amazing—the friends I have made here, the professors who have supported and encouraged me in everything, have all contributed to the person I am today.

It is a little daunting, the idea of going out into the “real world.” I think I can manage it, though. If not, I always have the friends I made here to lean on if I ever need the support. Thank you for everything, Liberty.

Tyler Eacho

Writing and editing for the Liberty Champion has been my most fulfilling academic venture at Liberty University. For me, college has been a journey filled with unknowns. My job at the Champion has been refreshing, because I was reassured that writing is one of my passions.



EACHO

In my time at the Champion, I have grown as a journalist and, more importantly, as a person. After hours and hours spent together in the office, I believe that members of the staff have developed close-knit relationships, and

I find myself proud to have been a part of this particular group of people.

One distinct phrase, from the brilliant mind of sports editor Kyle Harvey, resonates with me: “This is a newspaper. We all have issues.” He is right in saying that there were plenty of problems that sprouted up throughout the year. The great thing is that, together as a staff, we learned how to work through those problems to produce a newspaper that we could be proud to put on the shelves every week.

As I move forward, I will most certainly miss my time at the Champion, but I know I will carry the lessons that I learned there with me in my career.

Elliot Mosher

I’m not really good at goodbyes so ... “that’ll do pig,” “hasta la vista baby,” “stay sweet,” “Zed’s dead baby,” “here’s to looking at you kid,” “good night and good luck,” “fire up the roof,” “see you in another life



MOSHER

brother,” “good night sweet prince,” “if I don’t see you, good afternoon good evening and good night,” and finally, as the Von Trapp children would say, “so long, farewell, it’s time to say goodbye, adieu, adieu to you and you and you, goodbyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyy.”

Andrew Woolfolk

Oh the conundrum of summarizing all my memories of the past year and saying goodbye to my readers in 150 words or less.

The past year I have spent as the opinion editor at the Liberty Champion has been a marvelous privilege. I have been able to give my insight on a variety of topics, ranging from the shortcomings of politicians in Washington to the importance of appreciating our military to my thoughts on gun con-



WOOLFOLK

trol. Every issue I have covered has helped to open my eyes a little wider to the ways of the world.

Though these discussions may not be as intriguing as the latest status update on Facebook, I beg all those reading this article to stay connected to the news. I take pride in the fact that journalists serve as a tool for history, recording the events that shape who we are and who we will become. When we cease to learn about each other, we cease to grow.

To everyone on the staff, I wish you all the best. Those on the Champion staff are not only my co-workers, but also my friends.

Good luck, let’s make history!

Melanie Oelrich

Where do I begin? These last 12 months of my junior year have been a wild ride. It will be hard to compress my thoughts and feelings from this last year into 150 words, but I will try my best.



OELRICH

This time last year, I applied and was accepted onto The Liberty Champion staff as the news editor. The opportunities that have come my way, the hours upon hours spent in the office and crazy amounts of articles that I have

written have not only shaped me personally, but also professionally. I never thought I would be a good writer, but thanks to Deborah Huff and the supportive Champion staff, I have strengthened in skill and knowledge, among other characteristics, which I will be able to carry with me wherever the Lord takes me next.

My prayer for the new staff is 2 Thessalonians 3:5, which says, “May the Lord direct your hearts into God’s love and Christ’s perseverance.”

Thanks to our readers, my family, friends, boyfriend and Liberty University for your endless support in shaping whom I am today.

Love you all!

Kyle Harvey

I have lots of people to thank for the last year serving as an editor for this publication. First of all, I’d like to thank Deborah Huff, whose expert guidance has been paramount to our success and continued growth as journalists.



HARVEY

I’d like to thank the editing team of Tess Curtis, Ashley McAlpin and Tabitha Cassidy for catching my mistakes and polishing my stories.

I’d like to thank Derrick Battle, my incredibly able assistant who the sports section would have been

lost without on a weekly basis.

I’d like to thank all of our athletes—the stars of our pages. It has been a pleasure to witness and record all of your accomplishments from the last year.

I’d like to thank our readers. Without you, this whole operation is pointless. Thanks for turning to us for news and analysis of what matters to you most at school.

I’d like to thank my most devoted reader—my beautiful girlfriend Jeanette Larsen. You’re my best friend, my inspiration and the love of my life.

To God be the glory for every word I write in my future career.

Kyle Harvey—over and out.

From the Desk

Tabitha Cassidy

As the last edition that I will ever touch of the Liberty Champion gets ready to leave my fingertips, I cannot help but to feel a sense of nostalgia thinking about my past year as the editor in chief.

Coverage of an important political year, perhaps one of the most significant of my life so far, predominantly filled the pages of this newspaper for the fall semester. Meeting prominent politicians, businessmen and economists was also of

great meaning to me.

While the people I met and interviewed were fantastic experiences, what I will take away from my experiences with the Liberty Champion the most, though, are the times I heard from you, our readers, and how I could see the things we wrote making an impact on your lives.



CASSIDY

Whether you agreed with everything we published or not, your voices reaching out to us in response to something made my job worthwhile. Knowing that what we did made a difference was an extraordinary feeling.

Changes, of any kind, are hard. While I do not yet know where I will end up, like most of you, I know that what I am leaving behind are great memories and worthy successors.

I know that the hands I leave the Liberty Champion in are steady, purposeful and willing to inform you of the news you have a right to know. I pray that you will be as kind to him as you were to me, and that you continue to send to us your thoughts on the issues we publish.

As a last farewell to my fellow graduates, I leave you with a quote from

the book “The Crime of Sylvestre Bonnard” by the French novelist Anatole France:

“All changes, even the most longed for, have their melancholy; for what we leave behind us is a part of ourselves; we must die to one life before we can enter another.”

Greg Leasure

Change can be an interesting thing. As my third year at Liberty University comes to an end, I have come to realize just how much change takes place during college.

As someone who has stayed in the same East Campus dorm room all three years of his college career, I would be the first person to admit that I don’t like change. The nostalgia of coming home during the summer months and returning to

the campus in the fall is enough to make me wish I were a freshman again.

However, as more and more of my close friends and co-workers graduate and move forward in life, I see more and more that change can be a positive thing.

Since I began writing for the Liberty Champion in the spring of 2012, I have experienced my share of change. As a first-time reporter in the sports section, I stuck to what I knew—baseball, but it wasn’t long before I found myself writing a different style of article as the editor of the feature section.

Now, as the new editor in chief of the Champion,

I can’t help but notice how much change has helped me progress as a journalist. If I had not moved on to writing about more than just baseball a year ago, I would not have experienced many of the amazing opportunities that being the editor of a section gave me.

As much as I loved working on the feature section each week, I know that the change to editor in chief will bring with it the chance for even more growth.

Now, as six members of the Liberty Champion staff that I have been a part of for the last year move on to bigger and better things, I only hope that I will be able to continue in serving you, our readers, as well as they have for the past year.



LEASURE



CREATIVE COMMONS

REMEMBRANCE — Six years after the deadly mass shooting, the country continues to quarrel over the answer to gun control.

Concealed carry the solution?

Tragedies such as the Virginia Tech shooting have inspired new legislation concerning student gun rights

Andrew Woolfolk
a woolfolk@liberty.edu

There are certain moments in life where an event so monumental occurs that you know exactly where you were when it happened. For our generation, these were moments, such as Sept. 11, the death of Osama Bin Laden and now, sadly, the Boston bombing.

We passed over another one of those days April 16. That day marked six years since the shootings at Virginia Tech, where the perpetrator, Seung-Hui Cho, armed himself with two handguns and littered the campus with gunfire. By the end of the day, 32 people were killed with 23 others injured.

Since that day, the debate about whether guns should be allowed on college campuses has run rampant across the country. On March 22, Liberty revised its own handbook to allow students with concealed-carry permits to take guns into academic buildings.

Some students are convinced this is a better way of doing things on college campus, but I am not a part of that group. It certainly may be a step in the right direction, but I feel that a better solution is out there.

First, I must address my hesitation about students carrying guns. The fact is that just because someone simply has to go through a modest amount of testing does not mean that

they will handle their newfound privilege responsibly. Millions of teenagers go through driver's education each year, and do not many of them drive irresponsibly? And just as with cars, guns get stolen. More guns on campus may equate to more opportunities for theft.

It is also assumed that a carrying student would be able to make a difference in a campus-shooting situation. Yet, when you consider how hard it is for police officers who are trained for these situations to hit their target — a study by the Brady Campaign to End Gun Violence found that police officers only hit their target 20 percent of the time — you have to admit that a carrying student has only a small

chance of making an impact.

Say you are that student holding a gun when police arrive. We would love to imagine that, just like in the movies, you could simply make eye contact with the police and they would automatically know that you are one of the good guys. This simply is not the case. The time it takes for a group of policeman to apprehend you takes away valuable time from their original mission.

So, before the gun-lovers on campus start throwing bullet casings at me, allow me to offer a different path. I am a gun-lover, and I would bet that I hunt more than most anyone else on campus. I want more guns on campus. I simply want them in the hands of trained professionals.

My apologies to the average Joe who is convinced he could take down a psychotic murderer, but give me more police officers roaming DeMoss. It is a common sense solution. When you want to control speeders on the highway, you add a few extra patrol cars.

This is not a panacea, and sadly, crimes such as the shootings at Virginia Tech will inevitably happen again. Still, we owe it to ourselves to learn from history and try our best to prevent another day where we remember exactly where we were.

WOOLFOLK is the opinion editor.

Major misinformation from social media sites

Jacob Tellers
jtellers@liberty.edu

A few hours after the bombings at the Boston marathon, one of my roommates told me that there had been a man waiting at the finish line to propose to his girlfriend who was running, only to see her get killed in the bomb blast. As heart wrenching as the story was, according to CNN, this was one of the many false stories that circulated the internet and social media in the hours after the bombings.

However, not all of the false information given out was as harmless as this story.

On the social media website Reddit, speculation about the identity of the bombers led to trouble for several innocent men who were wrongly accused of being involved.

According to the Huff-

ington Post, the photos of Salah Barhoum and Yasmine Zaime were posted on various social media sites as possible suspects. The New York Post even put their pictures on the front page, claiming they were suspects in the bombing. Speculations were also made concerning the involvement of Sunil Tripathi, a then-missing Brown University student, but this was only one of many early reporting mistakes.

Peter Bergen, a CNN analyst, was asked about the possibility of the explosions being a terrorist attack. The two groups he named as likely perpetrators were Al-Qaida, and right wing extremists — because, of course, no liberal would ever be involved in something like this.

Then again, there is the also the opposite problem of being too cautious. Dur-

ing the first hour of CNN coverage I watched, broadcasters spent a significant amount of time discussing whether the explosions were from a bomb.

Other false reports included rumors of additional bombs being found around Boston, which later proved to be inaccurate.

There is a problem with these situations, however. Whether they are terrorist bombings or other tragedies, the media uses newsworthy events to increase ratings, and there is a continual race to be the first to break new information.

There is an attitude in the media that if the initial information is wrong, it can just be retracted and then replaced with the most current rumors. Media outlets irresponsibly use these tragedies not to inform the public, but to speculate and drive ratings upward.



GOOGLE IMAGES

MISTAKEN MEDIA — Social sites spiral out of control with frequent false reports.

But is the media really to blame? The reality is that when a tragedy like this strikes, we all want to know exactly what happened and who was responsible for it. The media frenzy that follows is a result of news organizations and social

media sites giving us what we want at the cost of responsible reporting.

The Boston marathon bombing was a horrific tragedy and a reminder of the threat of terrorism. In some ways, it brought out the best of America, with

people reaching out to help others in their time of need. However, it also showed the ugly side of our desire for instant news and the misinformation that results.

TELLERS is an opinion writer.

Letters TO THE Editor

Didn't lose me

I read your Feb. 26 article regarding the ski industry losing women's participation in the sport with interest. I was one of those women until I purchased an innovation that significantly extended my physical ability to enjoy the sport. The apparatus, called CADS, the invention of Walter Andy, a resident of Vail. I'm sure you, being an integral part of Vail, are aware of this unusual & extremely functional invention that allows both men and women to ski with far less stress on their muscles. **1**

but as the years progressed, my knees began to tolerate skiing less and less. As a physical therapist for over 20 years with bad knees (chondromalacia, onset of osteoarthritis and what we call "joint mice"), I was hesitant to join my husband's all-day skiing glee only to be in misery at night with swollen, painful knees. When my skiing during the day was interfering with my ability to walk to dinner at night, I went to Sweet Basil or knew I was in deep even severe knee pain to stop me eating! **2**



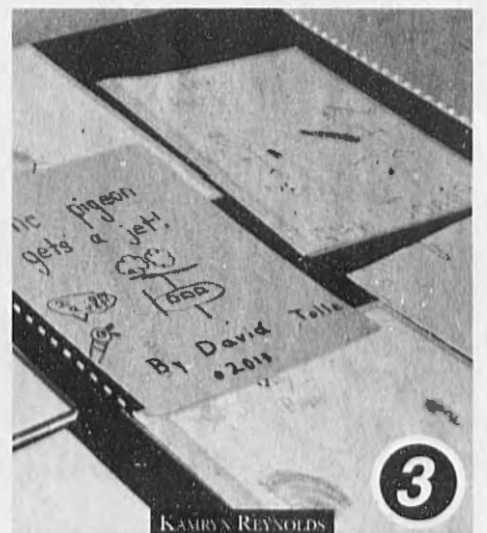
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KAMRYN REYNOLDS

PG-13

GOOGLE IMAGES

TWEAKS — Moviegoers can expect a new system for upcoming film releases.

New rating requirements

Violence across the country prompts revisions in Hollywood

David Van Dyk
dvandyk@liberty.edu

In a wave of nostalgia, I am brought back to five years ago when I took a trip to the theater with my friend on a rainy Saturday. We decided to watch WALL-E, not realizing the oversized agenda it served on a reel platter.

Eating my popcorn and enjoying the day, I noticed that I was in the middle of an R-rated movie trailer about, essentially, torture. Though it was only 30 seconds, it lasted longer in my head.

Now, with the recent, horrific attacks, including the Boston bombing and the Newtown school shooting, the Movie Picture Association of America (MPAA) is deciding to crack down on movie ratings. In a recent proposal by the CEO of the MPAA, former U.S. Senator Chris Dodd announced new measures to take place within the movie industry.

Included in these powerful new proposals is a decision to increase the font of rating descriptions, as well as increase the size of the ratings box.

That's right folks. You read it correctly.

According to the Associated Press, a new campaign will bring in these sweeping changes.

"The new system, rolled out as the 'Check the Box' campaign, will include prominent descriptions explaining why a movie received its rating. Films that might previously have been stamped PG-13 with a sentence beneath the rating will now feature those same descriptions in large type next to the ratings code."

No doubt these changes will keep rebellious kids out of the theaters and make blasé parents stricter on their kids. But with all substan-

"Violent content makes its presence known in the minds of the innocent long before they realize it."

— DAVID VAN DYK

tial sarcasm aside, do these changes attack what's really important?

In the wake of the tragic events, including the shooting in Aurora, Colorado, researchers have escalated their studies into how violent entertainment affects the minds of young and old alike.

"Research by psychologists L. Rowell Huesmann, Leonard Eron and others found that children who watched many hours of violence on television when they were in elementary school tended to also show a higher level of aggressive behavior when they became teenagers," the American Psychological Association (APA) stated.

Interestingly enough, the APA study went further, saying it had dire consequences into adulthood.

"By observing these youngsters into adulthood, Drs. Huesmann and Eron found that the ones who'd watched a lot of TV violence when they were eight years old were more likely to be arrested and prosecuted for criminal acts as adults."

As youngsters are exposed to violent content, whether in the form of TV or video games, it makes its presence known in the minds of the innocent long before they realize it.

As someone who was blessed with parents not

afraid to lay down the law and provide boundaries, I cannot stress enough the importance of parents being involved with their kids. While some say boundaries inhibit freedom, it actually encourages it.

As for the MPAA's decision, it will have little to no effect. Those kids who find ways around the system will continue to do so. As for parents who do not get involved, their uninvolvedness will, unfortunately, continue.

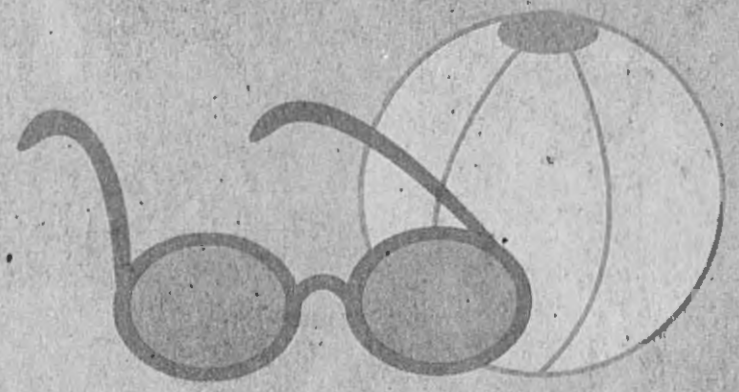
Noah Gittell, a reporter for The Atlantic, agrees with the foolishness of the MPAA's move.

"But that assumes that parents can and will control what movies their children will see, an increasingly dubious proposition in the Internet age," Gittell wrote. "If anything, advertising that a movie has 'grisly violence' or 'strong sexual content' could make teenagers want to see it more."

My words of advice to the parents who want to be involved: set an example and stick to it. By doing this, children will look up to that example rather than look to the movies that are being produced today.

However, Hollywood wants to spin it, actions have consequences.

VAN DYK is an opinion writer.



Six summer tips

Gabriella Fuller
gfuller2@liberty.edu

In a matter of only a few short days, final exams will be over, and the most anticipated time of the year will finally have arrived — summer.

Soon, textbooks and classrooms will become dim, distant memories as students gladly say goodbye to boring lectures, nerve-racking projects and tedious homework assignments.

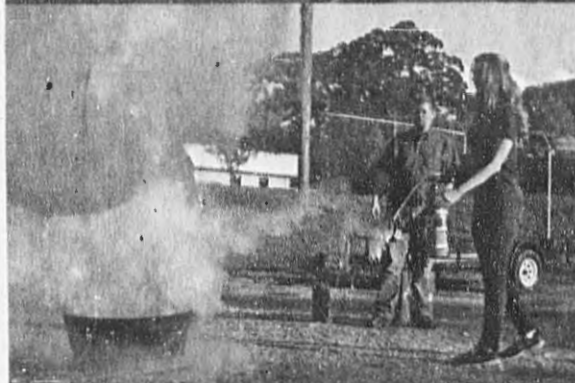
As preparations are made to leave Liberty behind and embrace the summer season, here are a few tips and words of advice that I hope will enrich your vacation.

1. **Rejuvenate and renew!** Take these upcoming months to rest from the stress and the chaos of the long school year. Summer is the perfect opportunity to catch up on sleep and to spend some time indulging in leisure activities. If you are anything like me, that means finally taking a timeout from a whirlwind of activities and paying attention to those movies and books that have been sitting on to-do lists for far too long.
2. **Get re-acquainted!** There is nothing I dislike more about college than the amount of miles it puts between me and my family. Cherish the moments spent at home with loved ones and catch up on the exciting times that were missed while being away.
3. **Build your resume!** Whether it is in the form of that coveted internship you have managed to secure or a summer job at a local hometown business, working is a great way to gain real-world experience and expand opportunities for the future. Doing something interesting will make the summer both enjoyable and productive — a win, win situation.
4. **Go outdoors!** Do not waste the warmest months of the year sitting inside all day. Find the nearest beach and savor the sun and waves. If the ocean is out of reach this summer, picnics, parks and swimming pools make for suitable alternatives.
5. **Listen to Dorothy!** You may not own a pair of red ruby slippers, but I think we can all agree that there is no place like home — especially when it comes to food. Enjoy as many home-cooked meals as possible before being forced back into a ramen noodle budget. Believe me, your taste buds will thank you.
6. **Be adventurous!** Make a list of activities you have never participated in and begin checking items off one by one. There is no better time to travel and explore, so take a road trip or fly across the ocean. It would be an absolute shame to waste all of that free time — begin making plans to create a summer that will be unforgettable.

All too soon, the calendar will read August, and the days of our collegiate careers will begin again. But until then, have fun, be safe and make the most of every moment. It has been a wonderful year filled with hard work and dedication — now it is time for a remarkable summer!

FULLER is the opinion editor.

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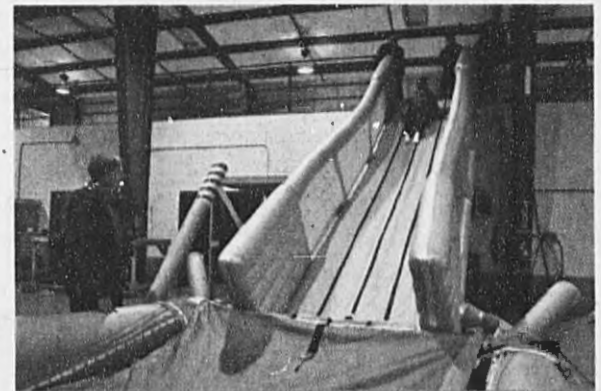
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ENERGY — Professor Marcus Ross demonstrates to students how the energy of the sun can power an oven to cook food.

Flipping the energy 'Switch'

Mark Tait
mtait@liberty.edu

Liberty students recently had the opportunity to learn about various energy resources by attending a showing of the energy documentary "Switch" and hearing from experts in the energy field in DeMoss Hall, April 22.

Marcus Ross, who developed the event, said about 250 students were present to view the film, which examined the current energy situation and discussed the viability of alternative energy resources.

In "Switch," geologist and energy expert Scott Tinker traveled the world and talked with professionals representing several energy resources. He discussed the economic and environmental impacts of oil, coal, nuclear, hydro and renewable energy.

According to Ross, Scott Hicks, the dean of Liberty's School of Business, played a key role in giving students the opportunity to hear from a panel of energy specialists after the film.

"It was really good," Ross said. "The panelists were chosen and contacted through the School of Business. Hicks has had extensive

experience in the petroleum industry, before he came to Liberty University, and still works with (the oil companies) as a consultant."

The panel included Daryl Gordon of Areva, the world's largest nuclear corporation, Brandon Martin of Dominion Resources, a company providing energy throughout the east coast, and Hicks.

"I really have to thank Dr. Hicks for helping (to) set up a panel of folks representing petroleum, natural gas, electricity and nuclear, and that's a lot of expertise right there," Ross said. "It's not just somebody local, who is interested in energy issues but has an agenda. These are guys who work for these companies. They brought a really big level of knowledge to talk about, in detail, some of things that the movie could only describe at the surface."

Ross said he reached out to departments in any area of study that could be related to the film. Students in science, business and engineering were among the event attendees.

According to Ross, Liberty's chapter of Enactus was also heavily involved in the film showing. The

organization consists of students and professors studying how business can create economic development in third-world countries.

Ross also noted that his specialty as a professor is primarily paleontology. However, teaching his earth science class sparked his interest in energy.

"I'll be making a class for the School of Business," Ross said. "(The Business School) came to the Biology Department and said the administration would like us to create a green sustainable management emphasis (class). I volunteered to do a course on energy resources and efficiencies ... so this class has really helped me get focused."

According to Ross, his new course will discuss the ways individuals can save money and create financial investments through their energy choices. Ross said he even built an investment of his own, a solar oven that heats up to 300 degrees by using the energy of the sun alone. He hopes to educate students so they can make better decisions in the way they use energy.

TAIT is the asst. news editor.

Bridge develops

Candler's Mtn. Road will open soon

Samantha Boontjer
sbboontjer@liberty.edu

After two years of having one lane on the bridge of Candler's Mountain Road by Mayflower Drive, renovation is nearing completion, as thousands of family members and friends are expected in Lynchburg for Liberty University's commencement ceremony.

According to Paula Jones, the media contact for Virginia Department of Transportation for Central Virginia, the rehabilitation project has been going on since April 2012. Although it will not be completely done by commencement, it will be very close.

"The expectation is that the project will be substantially complete and open to two lanes of traffic by graduation," Jones said.

The contractors are currently preparing to pour the concrete for the deck and railing of the bridge, according to Jones. The renovation has closed off one of the lanes of the bridge and the left-hand turn into the River Ridge Mall.

"There were significant pothole repairs that were made prior to this work," Jones said. "It is important to remember that this work is being done to extend the useful life of this structure."

The cost of the bridge is approximately \$2.5 million. According to Jones, it is being funded by a combination of state and federal funds.

Although the bridge was

being worked on during last year's graduation, Jones said that the traffic was not affected much.

The bridge needed repairs because of the condition of the road, but Jones said the renovation is taking longer because additional repairs were needed. The rebar, which is used for framing, had to be repaired before anything else could be done.

"Once the concrete was removed from the left lane of the bridge, additional deterioration was discovered in the rebar," Jones said.

According to Jones, another reason it is taking longer is because the Virginia Department of Transportation closed down the construction and removed the road closures during the holiday season.

"I avoid that area as much as possible," Liberty Senior Katelyn King said. "It causes such bad traffic."

King transferred to Liberty her junior year and said she had never experienced that road without traffic.

According to Liberty's Hancock Welcome Center, there will be buses transporting people back and forth from the River Ridge Mall to Liberty during graduation. Students, friends and family are allowed to park on campus, but any overflow can park at the mall.

BOONTJER is a news reporter.

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FACS majors unveil cooking skills

Kara Smith
kasmith8@liberty.edu

The Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) Department hosted a Food Science Fair, Wednesday, April 24, where students cooked and showcased a variety of dishes.

"The students have been working on this for three weeks, and it was a success because the students enjoyed telling other people what they learned," Professor Linda Kitchel, who led the event, said.

According to Kitchel, she has been teaching at Liberty University for nine years. Kitchel teaches cooking classes and FACS education classes. She also supervises current FACS student teachers.

The event was a walk-through where free food that students prepared was put on display. Guests had the opportunity to visit four different stations where



JILLIAN SPRINGER | LIBERTY CHAMPION

FOOD — Students present their recipe secrets to guests.

students introduced their foods and discussed the ingredients.

The "Old-Fashioned Meetballs" station had turkey, beef and pork meatballs prepared by Rachel Robbins and Tori Brock.

"It was really good," Jonathan Holmes, a junior psychology major, said. "I've never tasted meatballs like that before."

Another station called "Can You Taste a Difference?" by Ashley Rutherford and Bailee Palmer held a variety of cookies. Instead of using granulated sugar, the cookies were made with honey and maple syrup.

"There are healthy benefits in maple syrup and honey, such as vitamins and minerals, that you don't get, obviously, with a

chemically manufactured sugar," Palmer said.

The third station was called "Do You Know The Muffin Man ... and his SECRETS?" and included three variations of muffins made by Alyssa Oliver.

"I'm trying to give people options if they don't have a certain leavening agent that their muffin recipe is calling for," Oliver said. "Most muffin recipes called for baking powder, so instead I have also used vinegar and baking soda as a replacement."

Last but not least, there was a "Gluten-Free" station that included chocolate cake, cornbread and cheddar cheese rosemary biscuits by Charles Furman.

"For my project, I have decided to go with a gluten-free route for people who have ... celiac disease," Furman said. All who came to the fair were welcomed to take recipes so they could

make the foods themselves.

"I think it's great, and I like that they had recipes to give out," junior Amanda Prater said.

Kitchel, who earned her Bachelors of Science from Radford University and her master's in education from North Carolina State, explained why she became a part of FACS.

"Because it was family based and that's where I am with life," Kitchel said. "Everything revolves around the family. The family is the core. It is the institution God created, and it is the core of everything we do."

According to Kitchel, all students wishing to learn about the culinary arts are welcome to sign up for the basic cooking class, FACS 130.

SMITH is a news reporter.

Flames paintball team competes at nationals

James Ebrahim
jbrahim2@liberty.edu

The masked men scattered colored paintballs over triangular inflatable barriers, searching for opponents. Their pants were black, gray and dirty, and strapped to their belts were magazines of extra ammunition.

According to the National Collegiate Paintball Association (NCPA), Liberty's paintball team ranked second this year in the Southeast Conference of the Class A division.

The first match was

played in Lakeland, Fla. Liberty started off slow with a 15-1 loss to Florida Gulf Coast University, according to Liberty's website.

"We all kind of kept a cool head and decided that we hadn't played Liberty paintball that first match," team member Nathan Hawkins said. "Also, we discussed what had worked and what hadn't so we could come up with a better game plan."

Opening with a devastating loss did not stop the Flames from winning their next two matches against

Northeastern and Temple before conceding defeat to the University of Connecticut Huskies, 4-3, in overtime, April 20.

"Our goal is just to win a national title, so I think we all were a little disappointed," Hawkins said.

"We had been doing drills, running and scrimmaging amongst ourselves," Hawkins said. The national championship is the biggest event in which the paintball team competes, according to Hawkins.

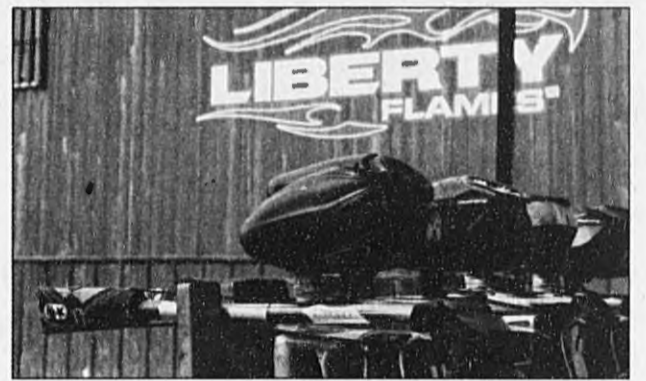
According to Flames

Head Coach Todd Hoglund, this year was a rebuilding year for the Flames.

"We're just doing what we're with what we got," Hoglund said in an interview for Liberty's club sports website. "For some of these guys, it definitely was a learning experience, their first time playing and starting on the Class A (Red squad)."

According to Hoglund, the NCPA championship was an opportunity for the Flames to show themselves as champions for Christ.

"It was a fun experience



COURTNEY RUSSO | LIBERTY CHAMPION

PLAY — Liberty's team placed second in their conference.

but a very different atmosphere than at Liberty, which is one of the main reasons we go — so that we may show how we are

different because we have Jesus," Hawkins said.

EBRAHIM is a feature reporter.

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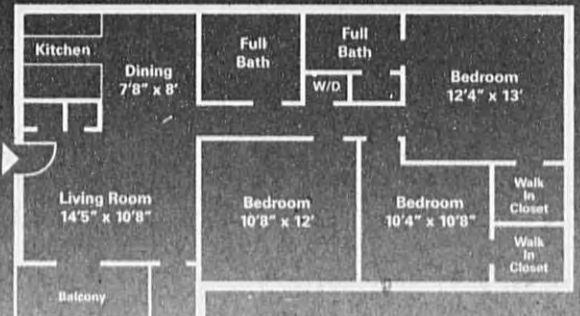
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ENOSIS continued from A1

The album will include 12 tracks that were written and performed by Liberty students, and Riordan hopes to make a new album every year. The goal is to bring in different artists to collaborate on a common artistic theme.

"We want to carry the name of Jesus in a fresh way and promote a lifestyle that worships Jesus through these lyrics," Riordan said.

Riordan will be engineering and producing the album, and Trey Roth will mix and master it, according to Riordan. Roth has worked with Christian artists such as Third Day, Casting Crowns and Kristian Stanfill.

"This all starts with a big vision," Riordan said. "The vision must be accompanied with a fierce passion that drives us to take action. Action accompanied by excellence births movements — powerful movements. A powerful movement founded on and strengthened by the gospel brings forth life change."

Riordan said students have until April 30 to submit their songs, and the final album will be released in the upcoming months.

HINES is a news reporter.

ATTENDANCE continued from A1

According to Falwell, the change was met with an overwhelmingly positive response from students, especially those who had already exceeded their unexcused absences in certain classes.

"Between my two Facebook pages, I've gotten over 500 likes (on the announcement)," Falwell said. "I think it's something that was badly needed."

The Student Government Association originally proposed a system in which students with higher grade point averages would be allowed more unexcused absences, Atchison said, but they were happy with the compromise.

Although some students, such as sophomore Jesse Pearson, preferred solutions like a system that allows students to attend class whenever they want or that allows Liberty professors to set their own attendance policies, Atchison said that the students' concerns are always at the forefront of the discussion.

"There's always going to be structure, because the administration does care about providing students the education that they're paying for," Atchison said.

LEASURE is the editor in chief.



KARLY KRZYVA | LIBERTY CHAMPION

INVESTIGATE — Students had a chance to talk with Carly Kast, left, an FBI agent, at the Employer Open House.

FBI continued from A1

"A really cool thing about the FBI, if you are interested, is that you can basically work overseas all your career if you want to move around to different countries," Kast said.

According to Kast, applicants must be willing to move around the country wherever the FBI may need them to go. Employees of the FBI may be called into many different operations very quickly.

"There are over 36,000 employees (in the FBI), which includes 13,000 — almost 14,000 — special agents and 22,000 support professionals," Kast said.

"It is a very, very competitive field," Kast said. Typically when you apply, there are

about 26,000 other applicants, and that's just for Washington, D.C."

According to Kast, the tests applicants go through to be considered at the FBI are extensive and difficult. Applicants must be tested in front of a panel of judges before being approved to complete a four-hour test.

Lie detector tests, as well as other mental tests, must be taken during the training process. Applicants are also required to take a physical fitness test, which is very difficult, according to Kast.

Kast offered some insight into what exactly she does toward the end of her lecture.

"My family finds it hilarious that I work for the FBI, because they tease me about

being blond," Kast said. "My brother made this picture for me saying I pretend to work for the FBI, when I am really just a gift store worker."

Kast enjoyed joking about her job, but she also noted that her role at the FBI is a serious one.

"I work for the financial resources unit at the training academy. My responsibilities include financial strategy planning, which means, basically, I am not going to tell you what I do," Kast said.

Kast told students that she knew she wanted to go into the FBI even before choosing her major.

"I have wanted to be an FBI special agent since I was four or five years old," Kast said. "The first book that my mom

gave me was called 'The Spy Wore Red,' so I was always very interested in that kind of world, but what really drew me into the FBI is the fact that it is an agency where people really try to help other people.

In addition to sharing her passion for the FBI, Kast also talked about Liberty.

"I love Liberty students, and I really believe there are students ... that could help the agency one day," Kast said.

CREEKMORE is a news reporter.

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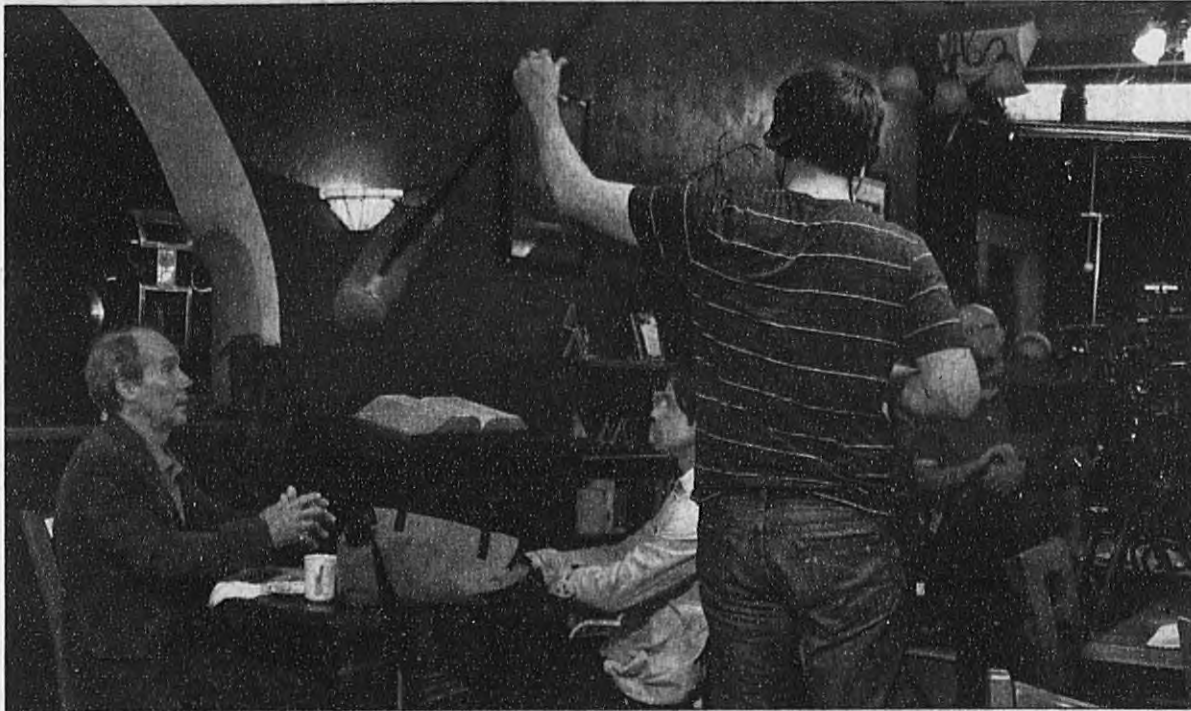


PHOTO PROVIDED

ON SET — Professor James Walz helps position a boom mic on location at White Hart Café.



PHOTO PROVIDED

OFF SET — Director Tracy Trost and Script Supervisor Casey Rieboldt go over a scene with actors Andrew Cheney and Rachel Hendrix (*October Baby*).

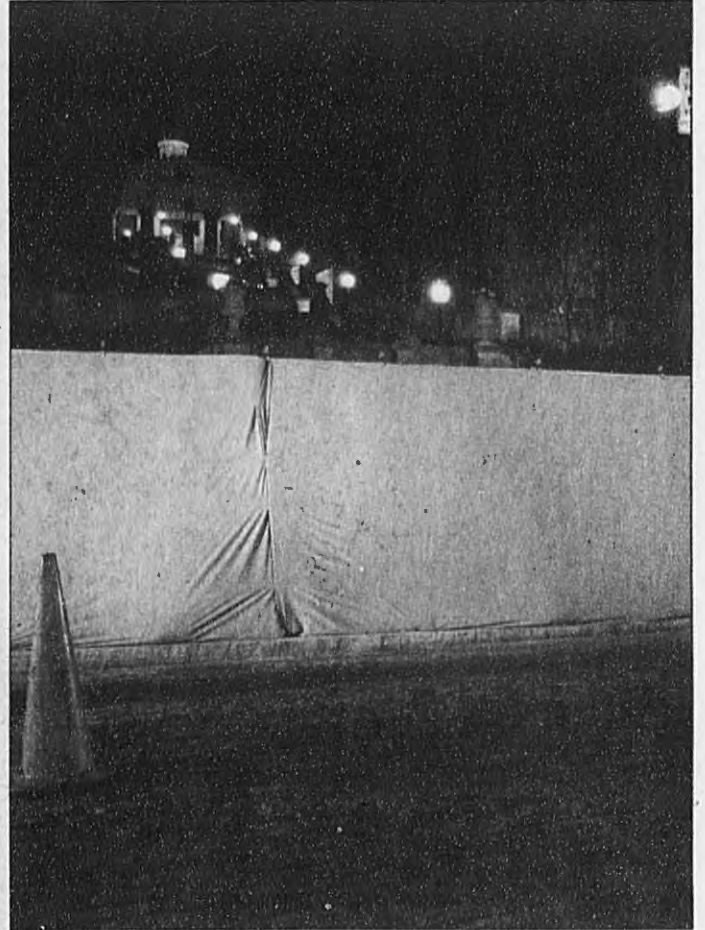


PHOTO PROVIDED

DOWNTOWN — A green screen was set up in front of Monument Stairs in downtown Lynchburg.

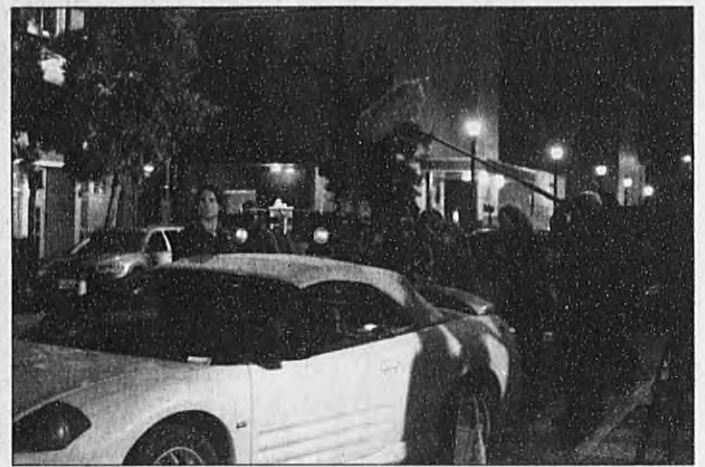


PHOTO PROVIDED

NIGHT — Actor Andrew Cheney (Jason Shaw) gets in a vehicle on Main Street in Downtown Lynchburg.

EchoLight Studios partners with Liberty

Deal between Liberty, established film company comes at unique moment in Christian film history

Kyle Harvey
kharvey@liberty.edu

It is approximately 1 a.m. on Easter morning, March 31, on the campus of Liberty University. Most of the student body is away — traveling, in some cases, hundreds of miles to be home for Resurrection Sunday.

But there is still plenty of activity on the Central Virginia campus, even in the middle of the night. The cast and crew of the film “Letting Go” are hard at work and nearing a lunch break during an all-night session. It is day five of a 25-day shoot.

The set is bustling with about 40 crew members and several others in the cast. Tonight’s scene involves the male lead, played by Andrew Cheney (*Behind the Mask*), attempting to rescue the female lead from certain death.

Cheney’s fictional character is akin to those in popular films, such as *Groundhog Day* and *Source Code*, who find themselves trapped in a time loop wherein they are forced to live the same day over and over. The female lead, played by Rachel Hendrix (*October Baby*) dies every day, and will continue to, until the hero can circumvent the time loop — she is hit by a car during tonight’s shoot.

What is unique about this movie set is that there are 32 cinematic arts students in training — each one learning under an experienced industry professional. The students are enrolled in Liberty University’s Cinematic Arts program, and the industry experts are contracted by EchoLight Studios, a Christian production company based in Texas.

According to the film’s director Tracy Trost, each department head has a group of students underneath them who have specifically requested to train within their discipline for the film. With a four-to-one, student-to-professional ratio, students are ensured an opportunity to get plenty of hands on training.

At supper, the cast and crew gather for prayer over a hot meal

that has just emerged from catering vans. Some students still linger over pieces of equipment with their instructors.

As everyone begins to form a line, Chris Morrow, co-founder and Chief Global Strategist of EchoLight Films, addresses the crowd, praising the efforts put forth in the first half of the day. He and his family are leaving in the morning to return to Texas.

EchoLight Studios

Morrow and his associates started Texas-based EchoLight Studios in 2011, emerging from an already-established Christian film company, christiancinema.com. The goal, he said, was to better cater to what he calls a severely under-served market of Christian moviegoers.

Morrow and his team just signed a deal with Liberty to fund, market and distribute five films to a national theater audience, of which “Letting Go” is the first.

The university has recently launched a brand new film school in connection with the Zaki Gordon Institute in Arizona. The groundswell of enthusiasm for film at the world’s largest evangelical Christian university is something that faith-based filmmakers hope will infuse large numbers of skilled and creative young people with a Christian worldview into a movie industry which seems to possess few others.

“Our goal is to create a professional hands-on learning environment where our students, working with state-of-the-art equipment and world-class faculty, are prepared to become artists whose faith infuses all they write, direct or produce,” notes Dr. Norman Mintle, dean of the School of Communication & Creative Arts.

The path to legitimacy

There are strong arguments to be made for Morrow’s beliefs that the Christian film industry is an underserved market. In recent years, Sherwood Pictures and

Kendrick Brothers productions, including “Fireproof,” “Courageous” and “October Baby,” have enjoyed marked successes.

“October Baby” received praise — however reserved — from the L.A. Times and the late Roger Ebert, and “Fireproof” and “Courageous” each grossed roughly \$35 million at the box office, despite their small budgets, according to Box Office Mojo.

Further support for the theory exists in the success of other Christian-themed flicks such as “Soul Surfer” and “The Blind Side,” as well as the History Channel’s “The Bible” miniseries, which Entertainment Weekly reported garnered ratings that equaled the enormously popular drama “The Walking Dead’s” season finale and beat out most other Sunday-night offerings.

But while recent successes in the box office for several Christian films have generated considerable excitement among the church crowd, it is understood that the road to widespread recognition of the industry is long — and narrow.

“It’s in infant stages,” Cheney said. “They’ve been making Christian film for decades, but it seems like we’re at this kind of crossroads where they’re really trying to step up — the production quality, the story telling, the performances, the distribution — and in that, the budgets are growing...”

Those within the business readily admit that there are tremendous hurdles of pre-conceived notions about Christian film that must be overcome.

“It’s going in a new direction,” Hendrix said. “It’s turning from being stapled and labeled as low quality, bad acting, or this or that, and this kind of other stuff we’ve all heard — nobody’s hiding that, it’s not a secret.”

But every dollar that goes toward tickets to Christian films, Hendrix said, is essentially a vote being cast for the future of the industry.

“What you buy when you go

see a film, in a lot of ways, it’s a vote of what you love, what you stand for, what you believe in, what your own life experience is like,” Hendrix said.

But even as the figurative votes begin to increase for Christian film, the most enthusiastic supporters of the movement readily admit that the process is slow and will take time.

Radio/Film parallel

Morrow likens the slow change that he says is occurring in film to what occurred in the now more mature Christian music industry, which has given rise in recent years to such Grammy Award-winning artists as LeCrae, TobyMac, Matt Redman and Mary Mary, who have enjoyed success in both secular and Christian markets.

“Christian radio 20 or 30 years ago wasn’t where it is today, and over the last 20 years, we’ve seen artists who start out being Christian artists that are now singing country and pop,” Morrow said.

The development of Christian radio, which allowed Christian artists a platform large enough to reach national audiences, is what helped bring Christian music to its current level of popularity and profitability. In theory, Christian film will enjoy the same success when the filmmaking infrastructure has developed enough to support it.

“(It used to be) if you were a phenomenally talented singer and you were a Christian, pretty much the only place you could sing was in the church,” Kirk Cameron, the child star of the popular ‘80s family sitcom “Growing Pains,” said. “But if you were phenomenally talented and wanted a career in singing, people weren’t really singing Christian songs on the radio or in concerts, so you’d sort of have to cross over and become this secular, godless sort of artist.”

But investments in the Christian entertainment led to a more inviting climate for artists to produce God-honoring art.

“Once Christian radio stations

started and you give the opportunity and the platform, now you’ve got really talented people who love the Lord that go, ‘I could make a career out of this,’ and we can just blow this wide open,” Cameron said. “We see that in the music industry, and I think we’ll start to see it in the film industry.”

According to Cameron, who as an official partner with Liberty’s film school visits the Virginia campus with increasing regularity, Christian colleges and universities are going to be the leaders in adapting the climate for artists. For many years, Christian schools were places that trained only pastors and missionaries, but that is changing.

Places like Liberty recognize the ability to share the Gospel message to the world by preaching through film and by evangelizing through arts, Cameron said.

“That’s why I’m partnering with Liberty,” Cameron said. “It’s because I see that they’re doing that, and I want to help throw some wood on the fire.”

Hendrix could not agree more with the notion that film is, and should be, considered as a powerful instrument for Christians to use to impact the culture.

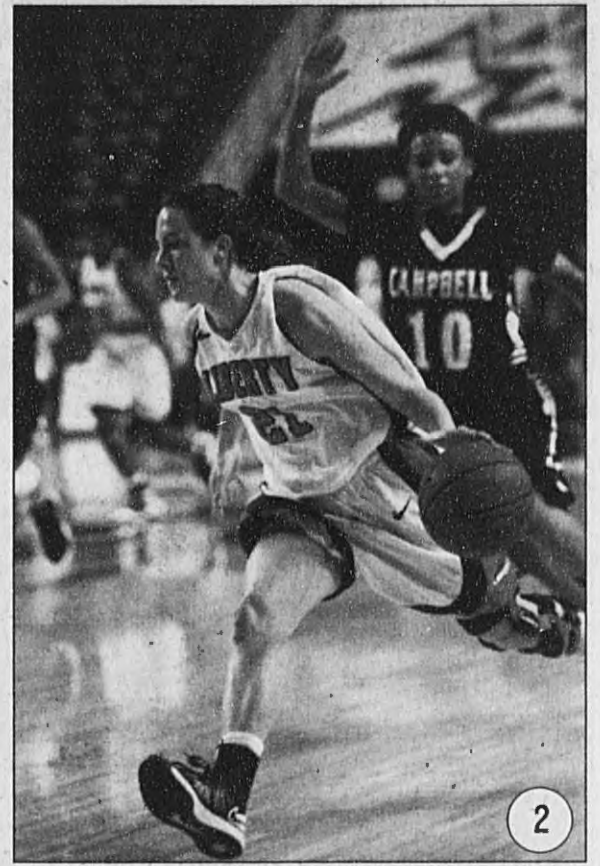
“I think God is moving and has been moving a long time in the direction of there being a pillar — the entertainment industry being a pillar of ministry, and it being a tool to use to communicate with a generation of young people,” Hendrix said.

HARVEY is the sports editor.

For the full article, see the LibertyChampion.com

Highlights: Top 10 trending topics

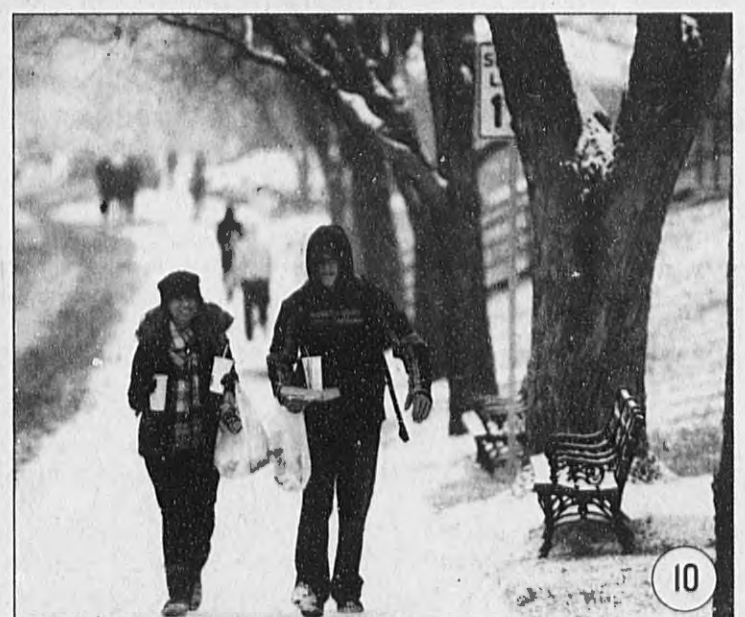
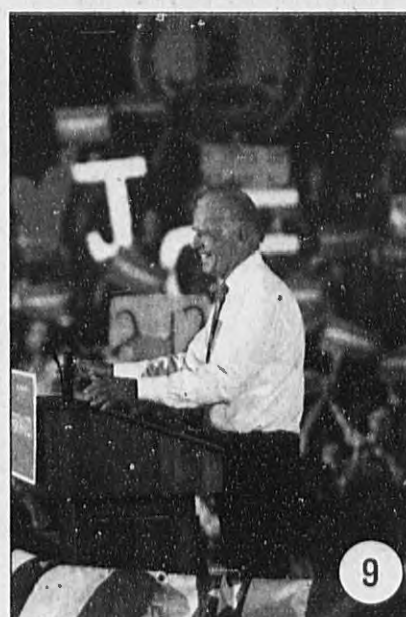
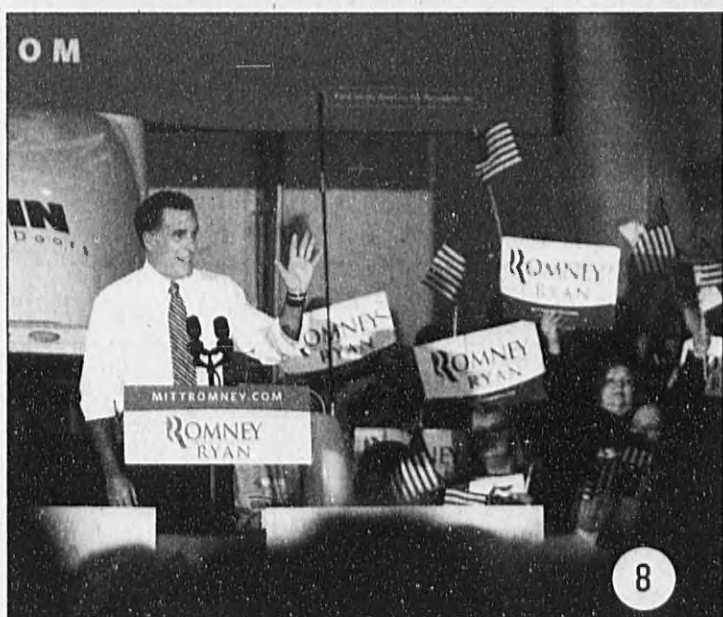
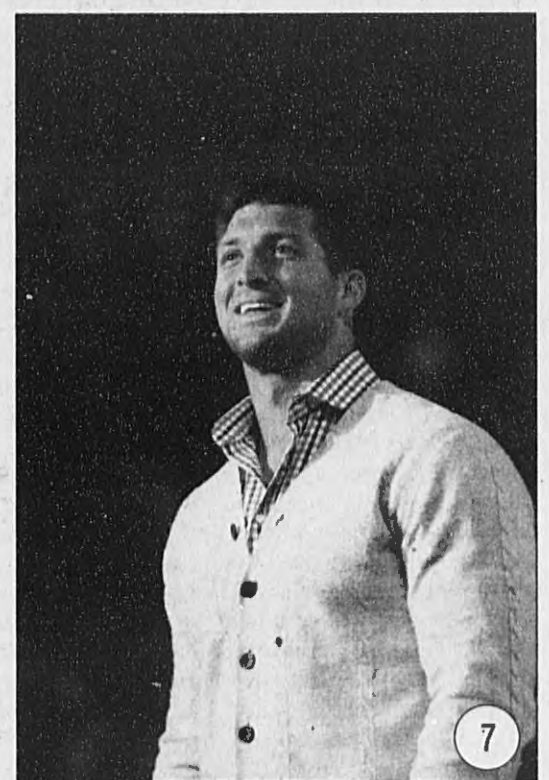
From courts to concerts and politics to playoffs, 2012-2013 at Liberty has been a banner year for all of us



A Year in Photos

Photos by Ruth Bibby

1. A new state-of-the-art stadium houses Flames baseball games.
2. The Lady Flames basketball team won their second straight Big South title and made it to the Big Dance.
3. In a Cinderella story, the men's basketball team won the Big South Conference Tournament and made it to March Madness as well.
4. Liberty's D-Trex dance team wowed spectators at Coffeehouse.
5. After Convocation, Lecrae held a press conference before his sold out concert.
6. Liberty men's lacrosse heads into nationals with a 16-1 record.
7. Former Jets quarterback Tim Tebow addressed students during Convocation, March 8.
8. Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney rallied in Roanoke and Lynchburg.
9. Vice President Biden campaigned in downtown Lynchburg.
10. Students trudged through numerous snow storms during the winter and spring.



Golf

2nd in Big South Championship

Crew

Liberty 2
Virginia Tech 0

Baseball

Liberty 13
VMI 7

M. Lacrosse

Liberty 9
SCAD 5

Softball

Coastal 9
Liberty 5

Track solid in invite

Emily Brown
erbrown@liberty.edu

Despite a number of athletes taking the weekend off from competition, Liberty's men's and women's track and field teams brought home 19 top-three finishes in the Highlander Invitational April 26 and 27.

"We were trying to kind of take a rest week after conference (championships) last weekend, and, yet, we still had a couple of good performances," Head Coach Brant Tolsma said.

On the men's side of the meet, the Flames notched six top-three finishes, including three on the track.

Sophomore John Sherret took the second spot in the 800-meter run, finishing in 1:52.81.

In the 400-meter dash, senior Paul Arslain crossed the finish line third in a season-best 48.85 seconds. Tyler Weigandt came in behind Arslain for fourth place, running a 51.21-second race.

See **TRACK, B5**

Flames lax wins SELC title

Derrick Battle
dbattle2@liberty.edu

Last season, the Liberty men's lacrosse team reached the semifinals of the Southeastern Lacrosse Conference (SELC) tournament, losing to Elon, 13-12. This year, the Flames (16-1, 4-0 SELC) reached the SELC Championship game for the first time, defeating Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) (8-6, 2-1 SELC), 9-5.

In their first meeting this season, Liberty defeated SCAD, 14-8.

"We played well," Head Coach Kyle McQuillan said. "We won the tournament, and I am proud of my team for hanging tough. We played three games in three days, which was difficult, but we made it through."

While attackers Ryan Miller and Kurt Tobias helped to anchor the offense throughout the year, midfielder Joe Gargiulo put together a career tournament, leading the Flames in scoring every game of the tournament.

See **CHAMPS, B4**

Tom Foote
tfoote2@liberty.edu

The Liberty Lady Flames (8-10) lacrosse season came to an end Friday, April 28, after a 17-8 defeat against the Davidson Wildcats (11-6) in the semifinals of the Big South Lacrosse Championship.

Despite the loss, the Lady Flames finished with their highest win total in team history and were encouraged by their performance throughout the season.

"It was definitely an improved season, both

in team performance and individual playing," Liberty senior captain Amber Nichols said. "Our coaches pushed us to become better lacrosse players and a better team."

During the game, the Wildcats scored two goals in the first 45 seconds of the game and never looked back, eventually increasing their lead to 6-0.

Kacie Fogle was finally able to find the back of the net for the Lady Flames, cutting the margin to 6-1.

After two more goals by Davidson, Nichols scored

her first of three goals at the 15:57 mark, reducing the deficit to 8-2.

The Wildcats finished the first half strong with four unanswered goals to take a 12-2 lead heading into halftime.

Despite the large first half deficit, the Lady Flames continued to play hard in the second half, outscoring the Wildcats 6-5.

"I honestly have no clue why it took our team that long (to get going)," Nichols said. "I think we were all kind of shocked at how we were playing in the first half and wished we knew what



KAMRYN REYNOLDS | LIBERTY CHAMPION

LAST STRAW — Liberty's Chloe McIntosh played in the final game of her career against Davidson.

the issue was."

Liberty's Nina Dunay scored her first of two goals to open the scoring in the second half, cutting Davidson's lead to 12-3.

"My goal in the first two minutes of the second half was a team

See **CLAWS, B2**

the Dew Games' finest



STEVEN ABBOTT | LIBERTY CHAMPION

FLYING HIGH — More than 40 competitors battled for \$15,000 in prizes in the Dew Games Saturday, April 27.

Davidson claws past Liberty

The Lady Flames fell short in the Big South semifinals against the Wildcats, 17-8

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May 1 @ 1 p.m.

Baseball vs.
Maryland
May 1 @ 3 p.m.

Baseball vs.
Duke
May 5 @ 3 p.m.

Baseball vs.
Radford
May 16 @ 7 p.m.



KATELYN WELCH | LIBERTY CHAMPION

DIVE — A Lady Flames softball player slides head-first into first base against the Chanticleers.

Coastal sweeps Liberty

The Lady Flames honored outfielder Jill Stephens on Senior Day during game three

Steven Sullivan
ssullivan5@liberty.edu
Derrick Battle
dbattle2@liberty.edu

In their final three-game home series of the season, the Liberty Lady Flames (19-33, 8-16 Big South) softball team was swept by rival Coastal Carolina Chanticleers (34-20, 19-5 Big South), April 26-27, extending its losing streak to 11 games.

Coastal Carolina 5, LU 1

In the first game of a doubleheader Friday, April 26, the Lady Flames fell to the Chanticleers, 5-1.

Freshman Cassidy McCoy brought home the Lady Flames only run in the bottom of the seventh when she hit a double to center field.

Liberty was hit hard in the top of the fifth inning with the Chanticleers scoring four runs off of two hits. One of those hits came from starting pitcher Kiana Quolas, who sent a three-run home run to center field.

Starting pitcher Chandler Ball threw a complete game, striking out four, while allowing three earned runs on four

hits. Her record fell to 8-14 on the season.

Quolas struck out five and allowed only one run on five hits, improving her record to 20-8 on the year.

Liberty out-hit the Chanticleers 5-4, but most of their runners were left stranded on base. Sophomore Kelby Allen went 1-3 with a single and a stolen base.

Coastal Carolina 9, LU 0

In the second game of the doubleheader against Coastal Carolina, the Chanticleers scored seven runs over a two-inning span to beat the Lady Flames, 9-0.

Coastal Carolina's starting pitcher Ashley Bagwell shutout the Lady Flames, recording nine strikeouts in the process. Her no-hitter bid was broken up in the bottom of the third by Liberty second baseman Megan Robinson. However, Bagwell improved her record to 11-8.

Coastal Carolina third baseman Kory Hayden led her offense with a home run and 4 RBIs. Center fielder Brook Donovan also drove in two runs to help lead the

Chanticleers to victory.

Liberty Flames starting pitcher Annah Jo Brittingham took the loss, dropping her record to 8-11 on the season. Brittingham gave up four runs through 4 1/3 innings. Relief pitcher Kenzie Friesen was called to take over the remainder of the fifth inning, surrendering three hits and four runs in her appearance.

In the final inning, relief pitcher Alyssa DiMartino for the Lady Flames gave up one hit.

The Lady Flames only managed two hits from Jill Stephens and Robinson during the game.

Coastal Carolina 9, LU 5

Despite a five-run rally on Senior Day, the Lady Flames fell to the Chanticleers 9-5, Saturday, April 27.

With family and friends in attendance, Liberty seniors Stephens and manager Abbie Seale were honored before the game.

Ball was in the circle again for Liberty. However, she ran into a disastrous first inning, as the Chanticleers knocked in five runs off of three hits,

including a grand slam by Coastal Carolina freshman Morgan Nord.

Liberty answered back in the second inning, scoring five runs of its own to tie the game 5-5.

Allen began the frame with a solo home run to center field. With the bases loaded, Stephens was walked by Bagwell, which brought a runner home. Sammi Shivoock eventually cleared the bases with a three-RBI double to left field.

Brittingham replaced Ball in the second inning. After allowing three runs in the third, she settled down and went on to pitch six innings, throwing three strikeouts and allowing three earned runs.

The weekend series with Coastal Carolina concluded Liberty's Big South competition. The only series left before the Big South Tournament is a doubleheader series when the Lady Flames host the Virginia Tech Hokies Tuesday, April 30.

BATTLE is the sports editor.

SULLIVAN is a sports reporter.

CLAWS continued from B1

effort," Dunay said. "It sparked momentum in the second half."

The Lady Flames and Wildcats swapped the next five goals, including two scored by Nichols, bringing the score to 14-5 in favor of the Wildcats.

The Wildcats then responded with two

more unanswered goals, extending their lead to a game-high 11 goals. The Lady Flames finished the game on a 3-1 run, bringing the final score to 17-8.

"We played as a unit for the seniors and ended the season strong as a team," Dunay said.

After the Lady Flames most successful season in school history, they believe the

future for the program is bright.

"We still have so much potential that hasn't been fully shown," Nichols said. "I believe next year's team is going to show this even more."

FOOTE is the asst. sports editor.

LU sweeps VMI, eyes playoffs

Greg Leasure
gleasure@liberty.edu

After sweeping a weekend series with Virginia Military Institute (VMI) April 26-28, the Liberty Flames baseball team is approaching the home stretch of the season, and with only seven regular season games left to play, the Flames find themselves fighting for a spot in the Big South Conference Tournament.

Last season, the Flames finished second to the Coastal Carolina Chanticleers for the Big South Championship. This year, the newly completed Liberty Baseball Stadium will play host to a tournament May 21-25 that might not include the Flames.

Even though Liberty has dominated opponents in home games this year — the team boasts a 17-6 record at the new stadium — there is still some work to be done if they want to put that home-field advantage to good use in the tournament.

As of now, the Flames overall record stands at 26-20, and they are in third place in the Big South Conference with an 11-7 record. Only the teams ranked in the top eight in the conference at the end of the regular season will qualify for the tournament, and although the team's chances of making the tournament significantly improved after their offensive outbursts against VMI, the Flames final regular season games will be crucial to making the playoffs.

As the Flames scratched out a series win by taking two out of three games from the Winthrop Eagles April 20-21, one Liberty baseball alumnus who was in attendance had some playoff baseball experience of his own to share.

Sid Bream played at Liberty University before being drafted by the Los Angeles Dodgers in 1981, according to Baseball Reference. Bream played 11 years of Major League Baseball and is mostly remembered for scoring the winning run that sent the 1992 Atlanta Braves to the World Series — a play Braves fans affectionately remember as "The Slide."

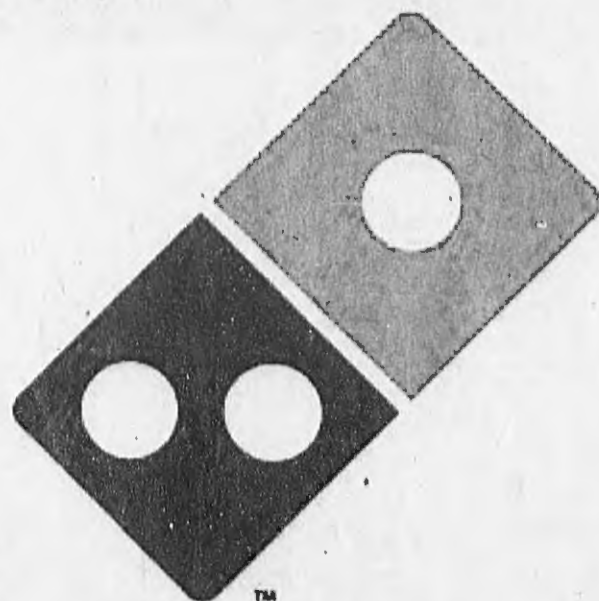
Bream, whose son Austin is a freshman on the Liberty baseball team, said that the Flames key to succeeding in the home stretch lies in their mental approach to the game.

"I think they just need to relax," Bream said. "I think that they need to get to the place where they just start to trust themselves, be comfortable with themselves and just go out and play the game of baseball like they know how."

The new Liberty Baseball Stadium is just one sign that the Flames baseball program has grown considerably since the former Flames first baseman played in Lynchburg. After last year's defeat at the hands of Coastal Carolina, Bream hopes for even more growth and success in the Flames future.

"They've got to get to the place where they start taking the next step," Bream said. "They can't continue to be second and third in the Big South. They need to start going to regionals and things like that. Obviously, the school is doing a great job, but they need to get to that place where they are taking the next step."

LEASURE is the editor in chief.



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Alumnus to compete in Ironman race

James Ebrahim
jebrahim2@liberty.edu

Completing a marathon finds its way onto many people's bucket lists, and for good reason. The 26.2-mile standard marathon is a lofty goal for the average person. And then there is the Ironman Triathlon.

Piled on top of the 26.2 miles of running is 2.4 miles of swimming and a 112-mile bike ride. This adds up to 140.6 miles. Alumnus and former Liberty Champion advertising director Ben Lesley has been training since 2012 to go the distance.

This year marks the 35th year of the Ironman race, heralded on its website as "the world's most challenging endurance event." The race will be held in Louisville, Ky. this August. After the swimming and biking portions of the race, the runners will pass by the famous annual home of the Kentucky Derby, Churchill Downs.

Lesley is hardly a physical specimen. He is not what one thinks of when they hear the word "athlete." He is shorter than average, with light brown hair and a neatly trimmed goatee. His eyes are light blue, and behind them is a light that shines when he talks about something he is passionate about. He speaks rapidly, stopping only when he needs to take the time to formulate his thoughts.

As can be expected of a 140-mile event, the training is arduous. Over the months of practicing, one of Lesley's biggest strug-

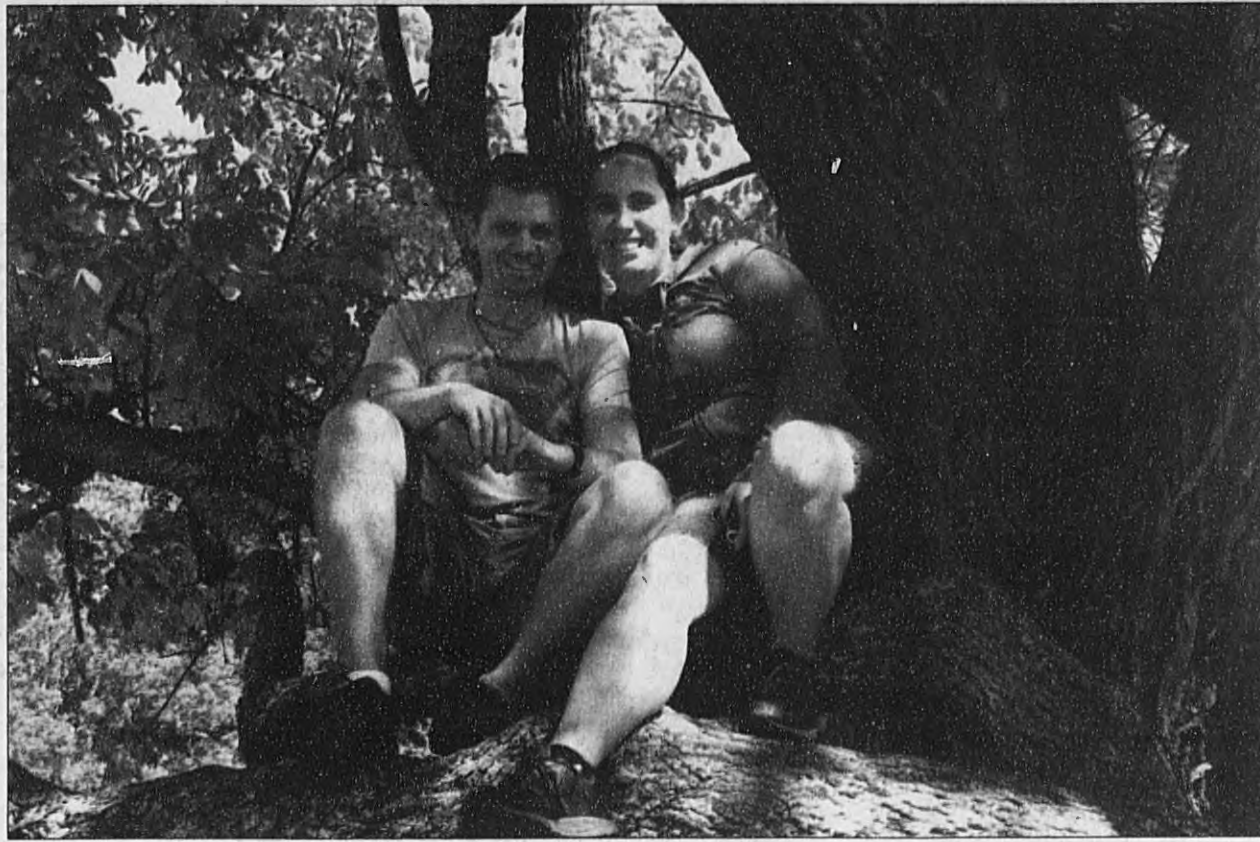


PHOTO PROVIDED

MADE OF IRON — Liberty University alumnus Ben Lesley is training to run the Louisville Ironman on August 25. With the support of his wife Kelly, he has been training since last spring for the 140.6-mile triathlon.

gles was the swimming. Last year, Lesley could not swim a lap in the swimming pool. He laughed as he recounted his own experience of learning to swim as a child.

"I grew up at a lake, and my parents kind of taught me how to swim ... They basically threw us off the dock and we either sank or we swam," Lesley said.

Lesley overcame problems with his form and taught himself how to swim properly, starting out at barely a pool length until he could swim the full 2.4 miles. One of his favorite moments was when the lifeguard was shocked to

"LESLEY IS RUNNING FOR TEAM SAMARITAN'S PURSE, WITH THE GOAL OF RAISING \$3,000 TO HELP PROVIDE CLEAN WATER"

— JAMES EBRAHIM

see him, the guy who could barely keep his head out of the water, swimming lap after lap easily.

The Iron Man challenge is much more than a race for Lesley. He is running for Team Samaritan's Purse with the goal of raising \$3,000 to help provide

clean water for those who have little to no access to it. Lesley's brother, who recently began missions work in sub-Saharan Africa, helped Lesley narrow down his choice of a sponsor.

"One of the reasons why I chose Samaritan's

Purse is because they do a lot in that region," Lesley said.

He wants the people to receive not only physical water, but spiritual water too.

"There are a lot of good clean water programs out there, but I chose Samaritan's Purse because they always share the Gospel," Lesley said. "To me, they have the clearest Gospel message."

His faith plays a big part in his training, and for Lesley, the Ironman competition represents every Christian's spiritual journey through life.

"I know it sounds corny,

but my biggest influence is probably Jesus Christ," Lesley said.

He said that he could not do the Ironman challenge without the faithful love and support of his wife Kelly. He describes her help on the hardest day of his training so far. Part of his training included a half-marathon, and he chose to run on a day when the forecast predicted sunny weather and temperatures in the 50's. It sleeted instead, and the temperature never got above 40 degrees. He wore bike shorts because he thought he would get hot in pants, and when he finished riding and his legs were blue, his wife was waiting with hot Chick-fil-a soup that he described as the best soup he ever had.

Lesley said anyone can do the exact same thing he is doing to raise funds for Samaritan's Purse.

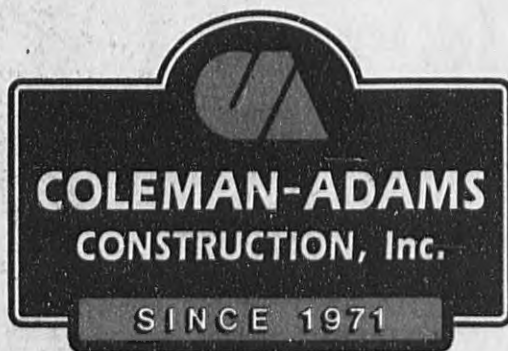
"They can help by also raising awareness," he said. "Samaritan's Purse has a group called Team Samaritan's Purse, and you can choose any race. I chose the Ironman, but if they wanted to run a 5K, it can be any 5K they want to do. They can go online and set up a page just like I have and choose any ministry to raise money for."

To follow Lesley's progress or cheer him on this August, check out his 140.6 Project on Facebook.

EBRAHIM is a feature reporter.

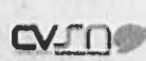


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Editorial: NFL Draft: Winners and losers

Although the 2013 draft has been completed, we will not be able to tell who is a stud or a dud for a few more years

Kyle Harvey
kharvey@liberty.edu

I'll bet you began reading this column thinking that I would break down who I thought were the biggest winners and losers from the 2013 NFL Draft. I will not be doing any such thing. No one should. There is absolutely no way in the world of telling who the big winner or loser is this year. None of the players have played one down of an NFL game.

The one thing that we can do is analyze the winners and losers of the 2010 draft. That's right, as in the draft three years ago. That's the most recent draft for which we have enough empirical evidence to make a judgment. In reality, it takes three years of evaluation before we really know if a player is going to make it in the NFL.

So here they are — my winners and losers from the 2010 NFL Draft.

Winners

#1 New England Patriots — The Pats had 12 picks in 2010 and, more or less, hit on seven of them. Cornerback

Devin McCourty was the first-round selection, followed by a dynamite second round in which they nabbed Florida linebackers Jermaine Cunningham and Brandon Spikes and tight end Rob Gronkowski. As if Gronkowski was not enough, the Pats doubled down on tight ends, taking Aaron Hernandez in the fourth round. The argument could be made that these are the two best tight ends in the business. Hardly worth mentioning in light of the rest of this list, the Pats also added their current punter, Zoltan Mesko in round five and contributing defensive end Brandon Deodrick in the seventh.

#2 Denver Broncos — How Josh McDaniels was initially deemed unworthy to steer this ship is beyond me. Under McDaniels, the Broncos picked up two starting linemen — guard Zane Bender and center J.D. Warton, two starting wide receivers—Demaryius Thomas and Eric Decker, and oh, a little quarterback named Tim Tebow. By my count, that's four solid starters and a quarterback that took the team to the divisional round of the playoffs.

#3 San Francisco 49ers — Out of eight picks, four of which were in the final two rounds, the 49ers hit the jackpot on three. Tackle Anthony Davis and guard Mike Iupati, both of whom were drafted

in the first round, have each started every game for three straight years. Linebacker Navarro Bowman, who was picked up in the third round, has recorded 337 tackles in the last three seasons, including only two as the starter.

#4 Seattle Seahawks — Seattle also enjoyed the benefit of two first-round selections as well and did nearly as well as San Francisco. Tackle Russell Okung was the first selection — he has been a solid starter for the last three seasons. Eight picks later, they took safety Earl Thomas, who has been a solid contributor in the secondary. But Thomas was only the first of two stellar safeties the Seahawks drafted. Despite being a bargain-bin find in the fifth round, Kam Chancellor has started opposite Thomas for the last three years.

Losers

#1 Carolina Panthers — Considering their top pick was quarterback Jimmy Clausen, this could have been predicted. Aside from sixth-round pick defensive end Greg Hardy — who has 18 sacks in the last three years — there are no bright spots from the 2010 draft for the Panthers.

#2 Jacksonville Jaguars — First round pick Tyson Alualu has started all 48 games at defensive end for the Jaguars, but he was the only real find in the 2010

draft for Jacksonville.

#3 Philadelphia Eagles — Andy Reid and company should have made out like bandits with a draft haul of 13 players, including seven in the first 125 picks, but only safeties Nate Allen and Kurt Coleman have made a significant impact in the last three years. Had the Eagles only had five or six picks, this would have been an adequate draft, but with the wealth of picks they had, two out of 13 is not cutting it.

#4 St. Louis Rams — Sam Bradford makes it hard to say that the Rams were losers, but after three years, his quarterback rating is only 77.3. Second round selection Roger Saffold has started 35 games at tackle, but aside from the first two selections, the Rams had nine busts. Like the Eagles, the missed opportunity is what hurts the most.

HARVEY is the sports editor.



HARVEY



CLUTCH — Senior midfielder Joe Gargiulo scored 16 goals in three games during the SELC tournament.

CHAMPS continued from B1

Against SCAD, Gargiulo led the Flames with four goals, followed by Tobias with two. Miller and midfielders Bryce Mrakovich and Derek Haywood each had a goal apiece. Kamholtz also had 14 saves at the net.

"Joe had a great tournament," McQuillan said. "If we had to pick an MVP it would be Joe, but we had contributions from everyone throughout in this tournament and throughout the year. Everyone played well."

The Flames went 13-1 in the regular season, earning a No. 1 seed in the SELC tournament in Johns Creek, Ga. However, their journey was a tough one.

In the first round, Liberty played the No. 6 Palm Beach Atlantic Sailfish, Friday, April 26 (10-2, 2-1 SELC). The only Sailfish loss came against SELC runner up SCAD, 11-9.

"We had a tough beginning to the tournament," McQuillan said. "Going up against the No. 6 team (Palm Beach Atlantic) in the country first

was not an easy task."

Gargiulo had a career game, leading the Flames with seven goals and helping them edge out the Sailfish for a 21-17 victory. Attack Kurt Tobias added five goals and four assists. Midfielder Derek Haywood chipped in, scoring four and contributing three assists.

"I was in the right place at the right time, and my teammates found me," Gargiulo said.

Seventeen goals were the most the Flames had given up all year.

"We were nervous," goalie Ethan Kamholtz said. "Our minds weren't right. It was more of an offensive battle. Both teams have high-powered offenses and it showed."

Kamholtz and the Flames defense allowed only 11 goals in the final two games of the tournament.

"It was confidence game for us," McQuillan said. "Palm Beach Atlantic offensively is a powerhouse, but we were able to make a couple more stops than they were."

Liberty defeated Emory College (6-4, 3-1 SELC) 10-6 in the semifinals on the road to its first appearance in the SELC Championship game.

"After the Emory game, we focused more, and we went into the game against SCAD prepared," Kamholtz said. "SCAD is a great team and we always have to play our best against them."

Kamholtz, Miller, Mrakovich and long stick midfielder Mike Zumpano were named to the SELC All-conference first team.

Miller was also named the SELC rookie of the year, finishing the season with 58 goals and 33 assists.

Tobias and defenseman Nathan Lowmaster were named to the SELC All-conference second team.

Liberty will play in the Division II National Championships in Greenville, S. C., May 13-18.

BATTLE is the sports editor.

Just Dew it

Stelzer brothers take top two spots

Mike Williams
mwilliams5@liberty.edu

The Liberty ski and snowboard team participated in the fourth-annual Dew Games Saturday, April 27.

These athletes performed a variety of tricks at the Liberty Mountain Snowflex Centre, competing in six events for \$15,000 in prizes.

Skiers and snowboarders took part in events such as men's and women's snowboarding rail jam, men's ski rail jam, men's and women's snowboarding big air.

When evening came, the field was narrowed from 43 to roughly 20 riders competing for podium spots in their respective events. Calling the event was former Olympic snowboarder and broadcaster for the 2014 Winter Olympics in Russia, Andy Finch, who praised the venue.

"It is a perfect training facility during the summer," Finch said. "Normally you have to go somewhere overseas, and even that is not for the whole summer."

Liberty student Jessica Woody stole the show during the women's snowboarding big air portion of the competition, executing several flips off the ramp, amazing even Finch, who pleaded for someone to sponsor the rider.

The men's side featured a duel between brothers Jon and Tim Stelzer. The Stelzers, who are also Liberty students, finished first and second on the snowboarding rail jam, with Jon barely edging out Tim. Jon also finished second in men's snowboarding big air, coming up one big trick shy of completing a snowboard sweep for the night.

The Dew Games concluded the season for the ski and snowboarding team.

WILLIAMS is a sports reporter.

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FUN IN THE SUN — Liberty students participated in the first beach volleyball tournament of the season.

Liberty alumni take first place

Beach volleyball team opens inaugural season with tournament

Courtney Tyree
cnytyree@liberty.edu

The new Liberty University men's and women's beach volleyball teams held their first tournament Saturday, April 27.

Liberty entered seven of their women's doubles teams and nine of their men's teams into the tournament. The teams competed in a pool play format, where they played nearly every team. The teams were then ranked in the playoffs by their record during pool play.

The women's tourna-

ment was comprised of three Liberty teams, two Liberty alumni teams, one team from Randolph College and one team from Shepherd University in West Virginia.

The men's side of the tournament consisted of six Liberty teams, two teams from Navy and one alumni team.

Only four women's teams made it to the playoffs, while six of the men's teams advanced to the playoff round.

The Flames alumni team took first place in the women's tournament,

Liberty's Sarah Gogerty and Tinsley Zentmeyer took second place, and a Liberty alumni team took third place.

"It was a perfect day for volleyball," Gogerty said. "We had lots of fans come out and we were all shocked at the support we received. It was awesome."

Liberty's men's teams dominated the tournament as well, with Kevin Snyder and Ethan Chase taking first place on the men's side. Flames Joel Marselus and David Hong placed second, while Mike Morrison and Ryan

Culkin finished third.

"Seeing all the guys and the girls from the club team really step it up in the tournament, and to see how much they have improved was really nice," men's tournament player Spenser Foley said.

The Flames will compete Saturday, May 18, in Virginia Beach, as they compete in the Virginia Beach Opener.

TYREE is a sports reporter.

TRACK continued from B1

The men's 4x400-meter relay team also finished in second place. Roderick Spruel, Andre Washington, Tarell Williams and ConRoy Smith combined to run the relay in 41.87 seconds.

In the field, redshirt senior Ryan Smith followed his history-making Big South championship meet with a third-place finish in the discus throw and fourth place in the hammer throw. Smith threw the discus 147-10 and added a 195-4 toss in the hammer.

Sophomore Kyle Wheeler added a second-place finish for the Flames in the high jump, clearing 6-6. Freshman Patrick Donigan jumped 6-4 for third place.

The women added 13 top-three finishes to Liberty's weekend haul.

On the track, three Lady Flames finished at the top. Amanda Wimbush took second place in the 800-meter run, cross-

ing the finish line in 2:15.49. In the 400-meter dash, Freshman Corinn Bedell took the runner-up spot, clocking 57.8 seconds. Audrey Bamford (15.21 seconds) added a third-place finish for the Lady Flames in the 100-meter hurdles.

In the field, senior Shelley Parker vaulted her way to the third spot in the pole vault, clearing 11-9.

Sadalia Ellis and Kristen Willeford finished in second and third places, respectively, in the high jump. Although both cleared 5-4.25, Ellis only needed two tries to clear the bar while Willeford needed three.

Janae Jones and Melissa Rohwer each added top finishes for the Lady Flames in the horizontal jumps. In the triple jump, Jones finished in second place with a 38-11 jump. Rohwer leaped to 37-8, finishing just behind Jones in the third position. In the long jump, Rohwer (18-3.25) took the fourth spot, while Jones (17-10) finished sixth.

The women also took the top

spots in the discus and shot put.

Jocelyn Williams finished at the top of the discus throw with a 153-3 toss. Sophomore Jennifer Nicholson completed the 1-2 sweep of the event for the Lady Flames, throwing 152-1.

Junior Rachel Barnes' performance in the shot put was also good for first place. Her 45-4.25 throw was a new personal best by more than two feet.

Nicholson added a third-place finish to her meet accolades with a 41-1.75 throw in the shot put.

"I feel very satisfied with my performances," Nicholson said. "I finally am consistently throwing farther than what my high school (personal record) was. I am really pleased and excited about this season and where I'm going to progress from here."

Williams also added to her weekend honors, claiming the runner-up spot in the hammer throw with a 174-10 toss.

"I was still recovering from (the) Big South (championship), so I was trying to stay consistent and hit some good marks,"



RUTH BIBBY | LIBERTY CHAMPION


AMONG THE PACK — Liberty runners Jessica Gass (left) and Caroline Parris (right) ran in the 3000-meter steeplechase.

Williams said. "Placing wasn't a huge part of this meet ... I was enjoying the lack of pressure and just having a relaxing meet."

The track and field teams return home to finish their regular season Wednesday in the Liberty Twilight Qualifier. The meet will be held at the Matthes-

Hopkins Track Complex and will begin at 1 p.m.

BROWN is a copy editor.



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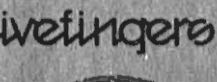
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Editorial: A difficult decision to make

High school athletes' choices to commit have come to be scrutinized by fans and media across the country

Derrick Battle
dbattle@liberty.edu

During their sophomore year, they dominate the high school landscape, and make themselves household names in basketball, football and baseball camps around America.



BATTLE

Eventually, top-notch schools take notice, begging these top recruits to be a part of their athletic programs.

Yet, for most high school athletes, the decision to continue to play a particular sport at an Ohio State, Texas or Syracuse may become a nightmare more than a blessing, sometimes due to social media.

With the emergence of Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, fans of these schools in recruiting. However, they may be more of a negative than a positive.

"Those things (social media) have affected recruiting enormously," Georgia State Head Coach Bill Curry said to espn.com.

Some high school athletes are even being recruited during their freshman year. Athletes are often quick to commit to a college without first weighing their options. While there are rules in the NCAA that prohibit high school freshmen from verbally committing, by the time they are sophomores, coaches barrage these amateur athletes

with pitches of all sorts.

Texas recruits attacked

Although Demetrious Knox and Daniel Gresham committed to one school early, to the dismay of fans, they may still take official visits to other universities. This is where social media comes into play. College students and fans alike may attack these 15-18 year old amateurs, questioning their loyalty to their "commitment."

University of Texas recruits Knox and Gresham faced criticism after the two took unofficial visits to another university.

"Certain stuff — like name-calling — kind of hurts," Knox said to longhorn.com. "I have to restrain myself from tweeting something back to that person. Everybody feels threatened that they're going to have another big-name decommit. That's understandable. But if I was going to do it, I would've done it by now."

Texas, along with the University of Oregon, University of Michigan and Georgia Tech, have closed doors for recruits to visit other schools once they have made their commitment so that these prospective athletes will not be enticed by other schools.

College Park reunion

After committing to the University of Maryland basketball program in 2011, current Virginia Cavalier freshman forward Justin Anderson faced scrutiny after decommitting because of the departure of former Maryland Head Coach Gary Williams.

It got to the point where An-

derson had to delete his Facebook and Twitter accounts to escape the daunting and threatening messages he received from Maryland fans.

In February, Anderson returned to Maryland's campus wearing Virginia Cavalier gear and led his team to victory.

"Before (Anderson) went out there, I told him not to do anything out of character," Virginia guard Doug Bowman said to NBC 29. "We are your family and we got your back."

The crowd heckled Anderson the entire game and booed every time he touched the ball. The Maryland fans chanted "traitor" to the 6-foot-5-inch freshman forward. However, Anderson was unphased by the crowd, finishing with 17 points and nine rebounds.

"I tuned it all out," Anderson said to the Daily Progress. "I felt like we needed to come in here as a team and get a collective win. I think we all bore down as one unit and that was part of our success. ... That's what it is all about."

Seth Curry transfers

Before his three-year stint at Duke University, guard Seth Curry was a highly touted freshman for Liberty University. During the 2008-09 season under former Head Coach Ritchie McKay, Curry led the Flames to a 23-12 record, scoring 20 points per game.

However, Curry decided to transfer after one season with Liberty, and McKay later left the program as well.

Liberty students criticized Curry's decision to transfer to Duke. On Liberty forum boards, fans said that he set the

program back years and that he was also the reason why McKay left.

Journey to LU

Liberty freshman Steven Thomas was a highly recruited shortstop from the state of Georgia who was primed to accept a scholarship to play at the University of Auburn. Unfortunately, he tore a muscle in his shoulder during his senior year of high school and chose to attend Liberty instead — but is not to playing baseball.

"I faced a little backlash from friends and such, but never from fans," Thomas said. "They said vulgar things to me and said that I was a traitor for playing for Auburn instead of Alabama, I got through it though. It is funny because I never went to play ball there."

For now, Thomas says that he has put his baseball career on hold and will focus on his global studies major.


"I was going to tryout and walk-on to Liberty's baseball team, but I see bigger and better things for me than athletics," Thomas said. "I will play intramural sports during my free time."

Sports have become a crazed activity for those athletes who play them, and for the fans that watch them as well. Still, fans have to remember that it is only a game. Added pressure and criticism placed on high school athletes is unnecessary. Where the athlete goes to college is not the fans' choice.

BATTLE is the sports editor.

Transfer?

- Why students transfer: According to NCAA President Mark Emmert, 40 percent of men's basketball players transfer, and of that, about 20 percent are freshman and sophomores. Forbes.com reported that transfer rates in men's basketball are also 36 percent greater than the rate of the overall student-athlete population. According to ncaa.org, during the 2010-11 season, 6.4 percent of Division I student-athletes transferred, which included 200 baseball players, 445 men's basketball players, 969 football players and 364 women student-athletes.
- According to The Daily, one of the reasons student-athletes transfer is that coaches and athletes may have a disconnect, especially over how the athletes may be used or how much playing time they receive.
- Graduation rates among student-athletes: For the 2011-12 academic year, ncaa.org reported that Liberty University tied for fourth in the Big South with a 60 percent graduation rate for athletes. Of the 46 colleges in the state of Virginia, 17 released graduation rates among student-athletes. Liberty ranked 10th on the list.




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Liberty students prepare for future

Tess Curtis
tcurtis@liberty.edu

Graduation day—Saturday, May 11—is fast approaching, and the pressure is on for seniors to figure out what exactly they want to do for the rest of their lives.

Although the question of their career choice will no doubt plague the minds of seniors in the nights to come, they will also have to decide whether to continue their education at Liberty University, find local employment or search for employment elsewhere.

According to Katelin Downing, graduate student assistant (GSA) for the Church Ministries Department at Liberty, sometimes a student's decision is practically made for him.

"The (GSA) job was offered to me out of the blue," Downing said. "Normally, the position of a GSA is a very difficult one to procure. There is a very long application process, and many more applicants than positions. However, I was offered the job without even applying for it. It was very much a God thing."

However, not all seniors have opportunities like the one offered to Downing, and actively asking for God's guidance is another way to provide students some clarity for the future.

"I prayed about where I should go next with my education," Jennifer Boyet, GSA for the Liberty University History Department, said. "The only place I had peace about was studying in (Liberty's) history program."

To Liberty students like recent-graduate Alexandra Machita and her coworkers, sometimes the decision to stay or go is an obvious one.

"I really didn't have anything keeping me here," Machita said.

Most of Machita's family lives in Pennsylvania and Maryland, she said, although she does have a few friends living in the Lynchburg area. It seemed more practical to leave, especially given that she did not have any housing or job lined up near the university.

"It would have felt weird, sticking around after most of the people in my class had left," Machita added.

According to Machita, her choice to leave Lynchburg was entirely her own.

"The decision to move to Baltimore wasn't a difficult one," Machita said. "I lived (in Baltimore) last summer, and it was the most viable option I had next to moving back in with my parents—some-

thing I really didn't want to do."

Boyet also made her choice largely by herself.

"It was purely my decision," Boyet said. "My parents were supportive with whatever I chose, so they didn't sway me one way or another."

Not all graduating seniors face the future with the same surety exemplified by Machita and Boyet. For Downing, there is much to be gained through asking the advice of family, professors and friends.

"Both of my parents and (my) professors had a large part to do with my decision to stay," Downing said. "One of my undergraduate professors was the one who offered me the position as a graduate student assistant. He really opened the door for me to stay in Lynchburg."

Downing said that her decision was heavily based on the valuable advice of her parents and teachers as well as the advantage of the full-ride scholarship offered to GSAs. However, Downing also said that her friends played a significant role in her decision to stay.

"Knowing that many of my friends were staying in Lynchburg to finish out their degrees definitely added to the appeal of staying here," Downing said. "Many of my friends here are like family to me, so it was difficult to think about not living near them any longer."

In Downing and Boyet's experience, the benefits of working as GSAs at Liberty are numerous.

According to Boyet, she enjoys learning about the education system as she assists a Liberty professor with his classes. However, it is the people at Liberty who appeal to her most.

Downing also said that she enjoys her job, especially because it gives her an opportunity to meet new people and be a part of new types of ministries.

"(My job) allows me to be involved in an aspect of ministry I had not experienced before," Downing said. "My coworkers have become some of my best friends."

When deciding what to do with their future, some seniors also depend on the influence and advice of their professors.

"They played an important role in my ability to become a GSA, considering two of my teachers wrote my letters of recommendation," Boyet said. "Also, the people who chose and hired me were former professors of mine."

One of Downing's teachers in particular had an important influence on her current position at Liberty, but she also owes



PHOTO PROVIDED

COWORKERS — Downing poses with GSAs in the Church Ministries Department.

a great deal of gratitude to all of the professors in her department.

"Well, one of my undergraduate professors offered me the job and is currently my boss," Downing said. "Without the professors in the department I work for seeking to be given GSAs, my job would not exist."

For Machita, her teachers had no direct influence on her current job, but they did play a vital role in her overall development.

"None of them connected me with a job or anything so concrete as that," Machita said. "They basically just did a great job teaching me. They helped me improve as a writer, as a thinker and as a human being in general."

Liberty English professor Karen Prior argues that "every job will contribute to your future career—whether it's the job you want or not."

According to Machita, she currently has a work-from-home internship that has taught her invaluable lessons despite not

being in her field of study.

"I'm so grateful for my internship and what it's teaching me, though I'm not sure that I want to continue in this field," Machita said.

Prior stressed the importance of internships in networking—something that Machita has experienced firsthand.

"I took part in the Washington semester during my time at Liberty University," Machita said. "Though I'm not pursuing the same type of work I did in DC, the internship did help prepare me for life in the 'real world.' It showed me the value of networking."

"Don't be afraid to take a job that isn't in your career and stick to it for a while," Prior said. "Work is honorable and will always bear fruit in unexpected ways—it builds character and expertise. It's amazing how you can draw on the experiences."

CURTIS is a copy editor.



PHOTO PROVIDED

MUSIC — Students can build portfolios through the non-profit organization.

Red Tie positions

Angela Swinson
ajswinson@liberty.edu

In 2009, the Red Tie Music Company began offering Liberty University students many different opportunities designed to improve their resumes, and it is now seeking students for summer positions. The organization is called Red Tie, in memory of Jerry Falwell's favorite tie.

Erin Schroeder, a manager at the company, said that the organization took off when Liberty student Travis Doucette's song, "God of the Ages," became a gospel hit.

"It skyrocketed the need for a music publishing company to the forefront of everyone's mind," Schroeder said.

According to Schroeder, the company now offers students Christian/Community Service hours or practicum credit. Schroeder said that Red Tie is interested in students studying in various fields, including music, worship, marketing, business or communications.

"Red Tie is a digital music company that exists to be a platform for the new worship songs that the students and alumni from Liberty, as well as the staff and people at Thomas Road, are writing," Schroeder said. "They also strive to connect those songs with churches in the U.S. and around the world."

Red Tie publishes songs and promotes them to different companies and churches.

"Our heart is to equip the local church with music resources," Schroeder said.

Red Tie is a non-profit organization that gives students the opportunity to help with office tasks, the call center, marketing, social media and video promotions, such as music videos.

According to Schroeder, this is an opportunity for students who would like to build their portfolios or for those seeking to work with a music company.

Students would be trained prior to working for the call center and would also be trained in how Red Tie fits in with today's music industry, according to Schroeder.

"We would like to build this company so that we can connect with churches by region and continue to make sure their music needs are being met by connecting them to new material," Schroeder said.

Students must first undergo an interview process to see whether their skills fit the company's needs, but Red Tie encourages students to visit their Facebook page or Twitter for more information.

SWINSON is a feature reporter.

Debate recognizes talent

The team enjoyed its annual banquet to celebrate success

Tyler Eacho
jebrahim2@liberty.edu

The Liberty University Debate Team celebrated the culmination of a successful season at an awards banquet in the DeMoss Hall Grand Lobby, Saturday, April 27.

The annual banquet was established to recognize members of the debate team and honor key contributors with various awards.

Following dinner and dessert, Liberty University Debate Team Director Michael Hall introduced the crowd to the awards portion of the evening. Hall started as a member of the debate team in 1988 and came back as a coach in 1998. He has been the director since 2006.

"We won our first national championship in 1995, and then, since that time we've reached a new level of success," Hall said. "We've gone from a nationally competitive debate team to one of the top two or three debate teams in the country."

The Alumni Award, given to a Liberty debater who has gone on to impact the world for Christ in his or her given field, was given to Mary Elmer. Elmer graduated from Liberty in 2003 and spent the last nine years of her life as a missionary in Tanzania.

Kaitlyn Schiess was awarded Most Outstanding Novice Debater. Schiess' freshman year at Liberty was also her first experience with debating.

Wesley Walker was awarded Most Outstanding JV Debater for his efforts as a



EMILY BECKER | LIBERTY CHAMPION

WINNER — Andrew Landrum was awarded Most Outstanding Debater.

member of the JV team.

Ana Calizo had debate experience prior to her time at Liberty, but this was her first year on the team. She received the award for Most Outstanding First Year Debater.

Following two years on the Liberty debate team, Alan Apthorp was recognized as the Most Improved Debater.

In the spirit of competition and emotional and relational leadership, Meagan Edwards was given the Team Spirit Award.

The Most Outstanding Debater Award is voted on by the coaching staff, rather than teammates, and seeks to recognize the debater that has meant the most to the team in every aspect, according to Hall. This year, Andrew Landrum, the debate team captain, received the accolade.

"If I had to talk about what I learned at Liberty, most of the things I learned and most of the growing experiences I had were outside of the classroom and inside of the debate room," Landrum said.

Landrum and his debate partner Aaron Siegrist each received the Director's Award for debating as members of the team for four years, an accomplishment Hall says is rare.

"Debate has kind of defined my time in college," Siegrist said. "My closest friends are on the team ... Overall, it's been, by far, the most incredible experience of my life."

Hall spoke highly of the two men, who debated together for the entirety of their four years on the team.

"There was a level of adversity that this team faced, especially early in the year, that's unlike any team we've had in the last four or five years, and so there was a unique challenge associated with that," Hall said. "I think it says a lot about the character of the team that were able to persevere through that."

EACHO is the asst. news editor.

Kirk awarded for teaching excellence

Melanie Oelrich
moelrich@liberty.edu

Dr. Jerry Falwell Sr. not only believed in "training champions for Christ," but he also desired to train leaders in all discipline areas, student faith, thought and character.



KIRK

Thus, the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching was created. This award recognizes teachers who have promoted significant student learning that is evidenced by exceptional academic skill, effective use of instructional technology and the incorporation of creative and innovative approaches to teaching and learning, according to the Liberty website.

This year, Bruce Kirk, a Communication Studies professor, won first place in the residential undergraduate area for the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

The award, which is given by the Chancellor and sponsored by the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE), recognized Kirk's dedication and devotion to teaching, inspiring, encouraging and challenging Liberty University champions for Christ.

"This award is a real honor," Kirk said. "First of all, to be considered alongside so many amazing professors is a true blessing. I came to academia late in following three decades in the media. I believe in experimental learning, combining theory with hands-on opportunities to resemble what my students will experience when they leave Liberty. So to be recognized by fellow educators, especially among the deans at Liberty University, is exciting."

Every year, the award winners are categorized into four different areas — Liberty University Online Graduate, Online Undergraduate, Residential Graduate and Residential Undergraduate. In order to be considered, applicants must submit examples of faculty and student

work, which showcases their students and makes their application stand out, according to the CTE website. What each applicant submits is up to them, but some options include lesson plans, videos or presentations, email communication, goals or outcomes and assessments.

As stated above, a part of the award recognizes a professor's investment in the student personally, which makes graduation for some communications students bittersweet.

"I'm about to graduate in two weeks," senior communications student Ashley Thomas said. "Teachers like professor Kirk make it harder to leave. Kirk is much more than a professor. He's a motivator, friend and inspiration. Although my days of classes with him are long gone, he still played a huge role in my senior year. If he has the power to help a student, he will."

Beginning this summer, Kirk will step up and take on the role of chairman for the School of Communication, under the dean of the department Norman Mintle.

"I will chair our four divisions in what is now COMS Studies — AD/PR, speech communication, digital media and journalism," Kirk said. "These will be moving to majors along with other exciting changes as we work to match our programs with the changing landscape of communication. The chancellor and Dean Mintle have emphasized that our target will include significant growth for our program as well as experiential learning opportunities."

Along with serving as chairman, Kirk will continue to teach digital media and journalism courses, along with assisting the campus radio and TV stations.

"My teaching will include both residential and online, where we hope to also grow our strength in that critical component of today's education process," Kirk said.

OELRICH is the news editor.

RACE continued from B12

with her sister and mother made a experience even more enjoyable.

"My sister is really big into running, and she decided to up my mileage," Schreiber said. "I usually run 5Ks. This is my first 10K, so I decided to give it a shot. I really liked it. It was a different change of pace from the normal 5K, so it was nice."

Schreiber said that she ran cross-country in high school, but now a nursing major at Liberty, she said that completing schoolwork often prevents her from running as much as she would like to.

"I didn't really train for this one," Schreiber

said. "I just kind of ran my normal three to four times a week and then just decided to give this one a shot, because I do not have that much time to train. It's more my outlet to do something good for me."

According to Student Activities event staff Dylan Steine, the race's sponsors — Riverside Runners, Rehab Associates of Central Virginia and Domino's — helped in many ways, such as planning out the course, keeping track of runners' times and refueling everyone after the race with Domino's pizza. Student Activities workers also raffled off gift certificates to Riverside Runners and gift cards to Regal Cinemas after the race had concluded. "Student Activities) has

done such a good job," Schreiber said. "They've done amazing. I've run a couple of other races with them too, and they've done such a good job with organizing it. They make them a lot of fun, and I can't wait to run more."

According to Steine, results will be posted online later in the week following the race. For more information about the Liberty Mountain Trail Series, go to liberty.edu/sa.

LEASURE is the editor in chief.



PHOTO PROVIDED | LIBERTY CHAMPION

VOY — Lock and the ASU Liberty University chapter gather for their cause.

AWARD continued from B12

According to Lock, starting ASU has helped her to learn the importance of giving back, along with the fact that some people have a great misunderstanding of autism.

"People might think that someone with autism that can't talk has a low IQ and that is not true at all," Lock said. "They are all very capable of communicating in

different ways and they still have opinions and feelings ... just because they can't express them with their mouth doesn't mean that they don't feel the same way we do."

After seeing the passion that Lock has for autism awareness, Keith claimed that there was no one better suited to win this award.

"I believe it is the essence of who Kristin is as a person that makes her such a phenomenal individual

and so deserving of this honor," Keith said. "Kristin possesses such character and leadership that she will be an amazing representative of Liberty University."

In the future, Lock said she hopes to stay a part of Autism Speaks by bringing it to whatever community, school and classroom she will be serving.

HAHN is the news editor.



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Students prepare for commencement

Daniel Bartlett
dbartlett@liberty.edu

Many events mark each semester on the short timeline that is the life of the typical college student at Liberty University. One such event is the day when a student arrives as a freshman with the uncertainty of meeting new people, seeing new places and being part of new experiences.

Long hours spent sitting in class or late nights in the computer lab, finishing that much-procrastinated essay or project that should have been done days earlier, mark the years of college for many students. Memories abound.

After all these experiences, students finally come to what some may call a "defining moment," where the student will be honored and presented with a diploma for his or her hard work, proclaiming the message, "You're done. You've finally made it."

Commencement for graduating students is quite an experience, and, according to Associate Registrar for Operations Lori Baker, it involves a planning process that began back in October, a time when most are not thinking about graduation.

Baker describes the graduation experience as a mix of fun and business, where students are recognized for their accomplishments in a way that upholds tradition, but also allows them the ability to express themselves.

"It's important to have formality and academic tradition, but it's also important to make it a memorable and enjoyable experience," Baker said.

Larry Shackleton, who works with Administrative Information Management, of-



TURNING TASSELS — Students at last year's commencement are recognized for their success.

RUTH BIBBY | LIBERTY CHAMPION

fers help to the many graduating students that pass through his office and is always willing to offer his advice and experience to students who are preparing to leave Liberty.

According to Shackleton, students may not realize it now, but "college days" are the best days. He says it is important to keep in contact and maintain relationships with the people that are met at Liberty.

"When you leave, don't forget where you came from; don't forget your friends," Shackleton said. "You have to work hard to keep those friendships, and make sure you do."

Baker explained how the transition of leaving the shelter of Liberty is a big deal, and after experiencing the graduation planning process for the past six years, she en-

joys being a part of the team that plans commencement.

As the end draws near for graduating students, many have taken the time to reminisce on experiences they have had and how Liberty has prepared them for what the future holds.

"It's very bittersweet to close this chapter of my life," senior Aubrey Lattimer said. "I'm definitely excited for the future and what's to come."

Serving as a resident assistant, Lattimer stated that the environment and leadership experiences have prepared her for other things that she wants to do in life, and they have helped her be more independent.

Along with gaining valuable experience and learning life lessons, students have worked hard to meet their educational requirements as well, and

look forward to picking up their diplomas.

"It has been a long, hard road, and I am ready to finish and walk across that stage," senior David Feliciano said.

Along with being a time to celebrate the hard work of students, commencement weekend provides a time for students to spend last moments with friends and faculty.

FYI
Liberty graduate Shannon Bream and Ravi Zacharias will both speak to students during the weekend.

According to Liberty University's Registrar website, a Residential Reception will be held on the concourse at Williams Stadium from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Friday, May 10. All faculty that are a part of the residential community are invited to attend, which allows them to have the chance to mingle with the graduates and meet their families.

According to Shackleton, this event provides an opportunity for students and their families to say goodbye to friends and teachers before leaving Liberty; this is a wonderful opportunity many may not get once all of the hustle and bustle begins on Saturday.

"I always enjoy meeting and talking with graduates and their families," Shackleton said. "They all have a story to tell and enjoy sharing it."

As graduates begin the job search, Shackleton encourages them to put their trust in God and honor him. Shackleton added that if that first job, or the one you really want, does not come immediately, be optimistic and patient because that is all part of God's plan.

"Be passionate about what you're doing, be passionate about life, be passionate about the work you do, and be passionate about wanting to honor God," Shackleton said. "You don't honor God with mediocre work. If you are passionate about these things, the world is open to you."

BARTLETT is a feature reporter.

Zumbathon raises awareness with MDA

Liberty University's women support the Muscular Dystrophy Association while getting active, April 26

Jessica Jordan
jjordan3@liberty.edu

Ladies at Liberty University had the chance to get active in a fun way while donating to the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) at the Zumbathon hosted by Med Serve, a student-led club on campus. The event was held April 26 in the Schilling Center from 8 p.m.—11:30 p.m. and was only open to women participants.

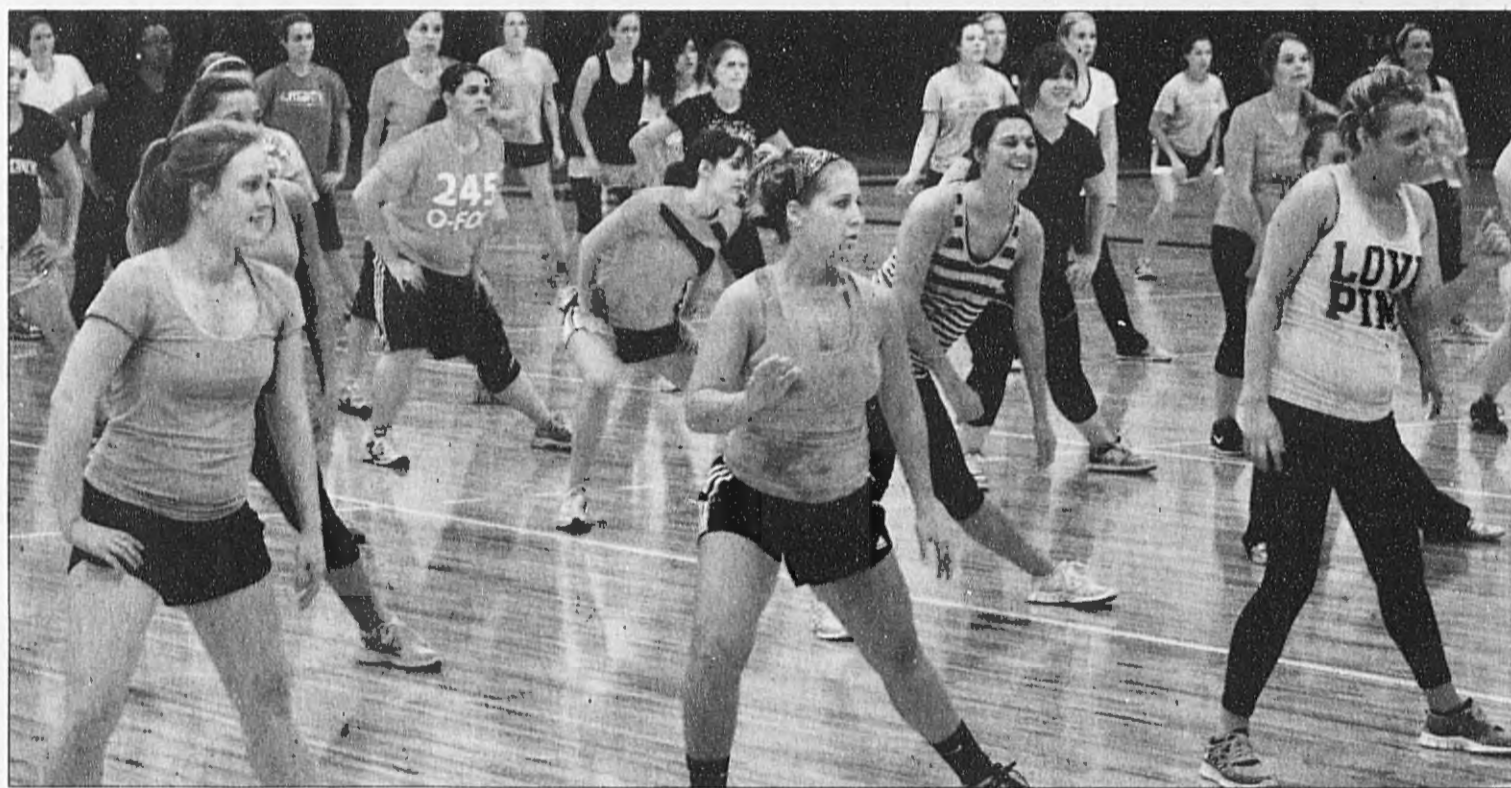
The event was held in order to raise awareness and funds for MDA. The women who attended the event were told about MDA and given instructions to find more information on the cause. In order to help raise funds for MDA, all participants paid \$5 at the door.

"This event has been a blast," Med Serve Treasurer Kayla Weston said. I am thrilled about the turnout. I am hoping that we raise a lot of money for MDA. Every dollar makes the event a success."

The women filled the gym while instructors taught the moves on a stage. There were three instructors, including two Liberty gym employees.

The instructors alternated showing moves, each teaching the lessons to the women in a unique teaching style. There were several breaks for rest as well, and free waters were provided.

"I came because I know the



MOVE IT — Over 200 women joined together to exercise to raise awareness for Muscular Dystrophy.

KAMRYN REYNOLDS | LIBERTY CHAMPION

instructor and I wanted to support such a great cause," senior Kelly McMullen said. "I like having fun while being active, and this event has such a great atmosphere."

Although this particular event was only open to women, Vanessa Collins, member of Med Serve, said she would like to see events for guys in the future as well.

"This is the first event we are

actually hosting for students to attend," Collins said. "Usually, we are connecting people to the medical needs in the community by going to various nursing homes and clinics. We have never hosted an event just for students. We decided to make the Zumbathon ladies only so that there was less pressure on the girls and they could really just get active without worrying about the opposite gender watching them."

Med Serve is a new club on campus, founded two years ago from the Pre Med Club. This year, Med Serve has been involved in March of Dimes, Freedom 4/24, and the Coleman's run.

Students can join Med Serve, become a part of the leadership or volunteer to assist as a part of their required community service hours at Liberty. "Med Serve is dedicated to

connecting students to one another and to the medical needs of their community," Collins said.

For more information on Med Serve, email Vanessa Collins at vncollins@liberty.edu or visit facebook.com/Liberty-University-Med-Serve.

JORDAN is a news reporter.

DISCOVER continued from B12

Premium Frozen Yogurt, Bloop Frozen Yogurt, Bahama Snow Shack Inc. and Cold Stone Creamery, along with a local favorite,

Mr. Goodies, located on Timberlake Road.

Students also mentioned Liberty's many different activities on campus in their advice to incoming families.

"I'd probably go to the lake, that's the first thing,"

sophomore Jasmine Cowder said.

Liberty's Ivy Lake, located in Forest, Va., is a scenic spot for fishing, canoeing or swimming according to Liberty's website.

According to Liberty's

website, Liberty also offers the horse lover's escape at the Equestrian Center. Other Liberty attractions include motocross and ATV trails, bowhunting, a gun range and ice skating at the LaHaye Ice Center. Other activities, such as

sporting events will also take place on campus.

While visiting for graduation, there are many opportunities awaiting visitors of Lynchburg. For more information and activities offered by Lynchburg and the surrounding

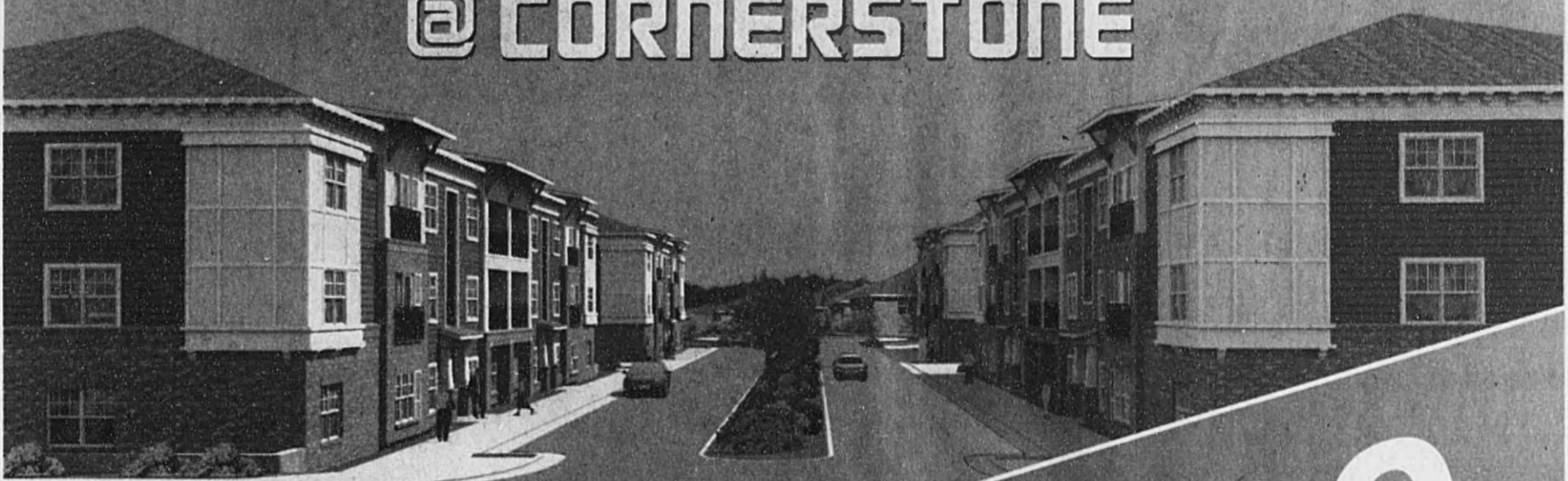
areas, visit discoverlynchburg.org, lynchslanding.com or lynchburgva.gov.

WARRENDER is the feature editor.

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Lock receives CSER award

Sophia Hahn
shahn3@liberty.edu

Senior Kristin Lock was presented the Christian Service (CSER) Volunteer of the Year Award Wednesday, April 24, for founding a chapter of Autism Speaks U (ASU) at Liberty University.

"I thought it very fitting that it happens to be Autism Awareness month, and this year's award recipient was responsible for founding the Autism Speaks U chapter at Liberty," Darren Wu, Liberty's CSER coordinator said.

According to Lock, she first got involved with helping people who have autism after working at a camp for kids with autism three years ago.

"That's where I was really intrigued by them and just who they are as individuals," Lock said. "They are just different in the ways that they interact with people, and I thought that was interesting."

Lock started ASU at Liberty in the fall of 2012. The goal of ASU is to raise awareness and funds for research as well as to reach out to local individuals with autism and be a positive light in their lives, Lock said.

"When Kristin first began ASU in fall 2012, the original fall membership goal set in September by ASU was 30 members for the first year," professor Deanna Keith said. "By the end of the fall semester, membership had reached 60 members. Currently, there are 70 members in the ASU (Liberty chapter), which is double the typical membership, according to ASU, for a school of our size."

According to Lock, ASU has grown tremendously at Liberty.

"It is really encouraging because one in 88 individuals are diagnosed with autism and one in 54 are boys ... There's more (children) diagnosed with autism than aids, diabetes, and HIV in children combined," Lock said. "It is good to get university students attracted to it so that they can learn more about it."

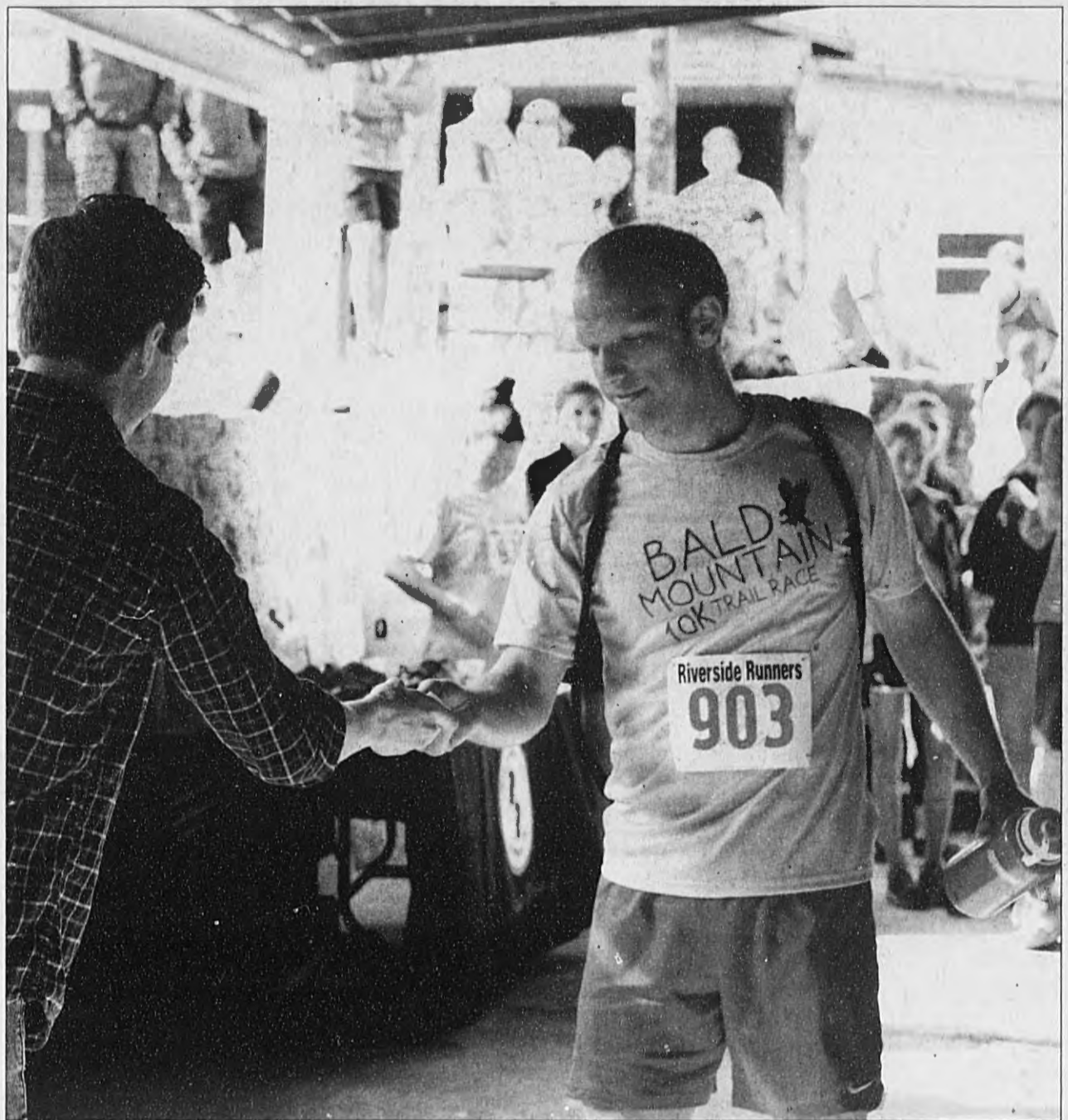
Since starting ASU, Lock has raised over \$9,000 for the program, according to Keith.

While at Liberty, Lock has also worked with the Council for Exceptional Children and, two days a week, looks after a boy who has autism. Lock is a special education and elementary education dual major, and she said that these things, along with ASU, have helped to prepare her for her future.

"I hope to teach (in) an autism classroom ... or teach a transition classroom for individuals that are graduating out of high school and (are) searching for jobs," Lock said. "I'd like to help them in that period, as they try to figure out their lives and what they are going to do next."

See **AWARD, B9**

run the race



JAZMIN QUAYNOR | LIBERTY CHAMPION

TRAILS — Liberty student Ben Phenicie finished 9th overall in the race through Liberty University's trails.

SA hosts Bald Mountain 10K

Runners competed in the race at Camp Hydaway Saturday morning

Greg Leasure
gleasure@liberty.edu

Runners rose early in the morning and raced through the woods and trails of Liberty Mountain in pursuit of first place Saturday, April 27.

The Liberty University Student Activities Bald Mountain 10K invited everyone from Liberty students and staff to Lynchburg residents to run, challenging participants

with a course full of steep hills waiting to be conquered. The Bald Mountain 10K also marked the longest of three Liberty Mountain Trail Series races that Student Activities during the spring semester.

The course — a circle which began near the lake at Camp Hydaway and led runners through the woods to the Liberty Mountain Snowflex Centre and back — proved tough for even the fastest participants.

"I liked it," Doug Cabbage, the race's first-place overall finisher, said. "It's not too terrible. You've got a couple hills. The first one here is a good one to get the heart rate up."

Cabbage, a Lynchburg resident and a second-time Bald Mountain participant, said that prior to leaving the rest of the field behind and earning a first-place plaque Saturday morning, he had never before won a competitive race.

"I do a lot of running and mountain biking out here during the week," Cabbage said. "I just like to do some trail running, but I don't like to do anything too long and crazy. (A) 10K is a nice distance."

Liberty sophomore Katie Schreiber finished her race in 64 minutes. Even though she had hoped to post a faster time, Schreiber said that running

See **RACE, B9**

Graduation brings new Lynchburg visitors

Sara Warrender
swarrender2@liberty.edu

As graduation approaches, so do many friends and family members of students, traveling into the area to see their son or daughter as his or her time at college comes to a close. With so many family members visiting Lynchburg, students around campus offered advice, sharing where they would take family during their visit to the city.

"We love Rivermont Pizza, so we'd probably go there," junior Taylor Frazier said. "Then we would check out down by the (James) River and take some hikes through there."

According to discoverlynchburg.org, the Blackwater Creek Bikeway and the Blackwater Creek Natural Area located in downtown Lynchburg are a part of the James River Trail Heritage System.

These biking and hiking trails provide eight miles of paved and unpaved

paths for travelers to follow according to discoverlynchburg.org. Included on the trail is a waterfall, an abandoned railroad tunnel and a bridge over the James River that provides onlookers a breathtaking view of Lynchburg's natural scenery.

Lynchburg also offers many historical landmarks to visitors. Families can visit The Appomattox War Museum, Patrick Henry's Red House, the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford or Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest. According to nps.gov, Thomas Jefferson began construction of his home in 1806. This National Historical landmark is one location to visit among many, located on Bateman Bridge Road in Lynchburg.

"I would go downtown and just walk around antique shops," senior Eric Long said.

There are four antique shops located within downtown Lynchburg's collection of salons, jew-



KARLY KRYZA | LIBERTY CHAMPION

DOWNTOWN — Business owners are anticipating an increase of visitors.

elry shops, clothing stores and furniture outlets, according to lynchsliding.com.

Lynchburg features antiques in Buzzard's Roost, Enchanted, McCraw's

New and Used Furniture and Scarlet's Main Street Mall. These stores are located on Commerce Street and Main Street.

"The Farmer's Market's really good on Saturday

mornings too," junior Rebecca Straats said.

Farmers sell their products on Wednesdays and Saturdays year-round. The market also offers two permanent shops, four locally

owned restaurants and a bakery and cheese shop.

Along with the shops downtown are also many opportunities to be active.

"I'd take my brother to the skate park (downtown)," sophomore Ashton Farmer said.

According to lynchsliding.com, Lynchburg offers residents and visitors many ways to find adventure in the area. Rivermont Skate Park, located on 9th Street, features a 14,000-square-foot complex, complete with a street course and bowl for skaters to enjoy.

For the adventurous at heart, Rise Up Climbing on Church Street is Central Virginia's Premier indoor climbing gym, offering hands-on instruction to visitors.

For those with a sweet tooth, Lynchburg has many different choices of ice cream and frozen yogurt, according to yelp.com. Lynchburg offers Yogurt Yeti, Sweet Frog

See **DISCOVER, B10**