

9-2008

## Student life gets adrenaline boost

Liberty University

Follow this and additional works at: [http://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/lj\\_2008\\_sep](http://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/lj_2008_sep)

---

### Recommended Citation

Liberty University, "Student life gets adrenaline boost" (2008). *September/October 2008*. Paper 37.  
[http://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/lj\\_2008\\_sep/37](http://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/lj_2008_sep/37)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the 2008 at DigitalCommons@Liberty University. It has been accepted for inclusion in September/October 2008 by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@Liberty University. For more information, please contact [scholarlycommunication@liberty.edu](mailto:scholarlycommunication@liberty.edu).



## Student life gets adrenaline boost

September 01, 2008 | Eric Brown

Labeled as institutions filled with strict rules and regulations by detractors, Christian universities are unfairly not often viewed as the most thrilling places to spend four years. Liberty University is helping to change this inaccurate perception of Christian education thanks to “Ultimate LU,” an initiative that aims to bring fun and excitement to campus life.

The new campaign will give students the opportunity to take part in dozens of extracurricular activities, from mountain biking to chess matches.

“For years, Christian education was portrayed by some as too rigid and regimented and not much fun. Of course, many who attended Christian colleges found that it was the best four years of their lives but others steered away because of this unfortunate public perception. We want Liberty to be known for the good, wholesome fun and well-rounded experience that helps students to grow spiritually, academically and physically. We do not believe it is necessary for Christians to compromise their values to enjoy life. My father always said if it is Christian, it should be better,” Chancellor Jerry Falwell Jr. said. “We think that, if the students are happy, active and physically fit, they will do better academically.”

In late July, Falwell kicked off Ultimate LU with the announcement of Liberty’s snowfree ski slope. The Liberty Mountain Snowflex Center will be the first in the U.S. surfaced with Snowflex, a multi-layer, synthetic material that simulates the effects of snow. The Discovery Channel is documenting the historic event and will air portions of the construction on an episode of Daily Planet.

Located on Liberty Mountain’s “bald spot,” the future incline will consist of a main slope and beginner slope for skiing and snowboarding instruction. Features on the main slope include an 11-foot high quarter pipe, a tabletop, a big kicker, two grind rails and an extreme tube chute. Tubing will be offered at designated times.

The center will be open to the general public; however, students will receive priority in both pricing and usage. A miniature ski lodge will be installed, permitting parties and other special events.

Completion of Liberty Mountain's monumental makeover is slated for the beginning of 2009.

Along with the mountain's 60 miles of trails, long distance runners will have a new place to jog on campus with the addition of a 2.5-mile cross country course. The university also plans to install intramural fields off Candler's Mountain Road. Composed of artificial turf, the all-purpose fields will be open for student use day and night.

Mountain bikers can ride the trails of LU's mountain property on Sept. 20 as the Virginia Derailer Series hosts "Assault on Liberty Mountain." Starting and finishing at Camp Hydaway, expert riders will compete on an intense 20-mile course complete with lengthy climbs, technical descents, log-overs and bridges. Novices can also experience some of the same obstacles on the 8- to 10-mile course.

Runners seeking a similar adventure can take part in the Deep Hollow Half Marathon on Oct. 11. Based out of Camp Hydaway, the 13.1-mile race will take place on Liberty Mountain for the second consecutive year.

Sportsmen will be able to perfect their marksmanship on LU's upcoming archery range, located behind the paintball field near Campus East. The new range will feature approximately 25 three-dimensional targets in a golf course-like setting, spanning 10 acres. Only small amounts of brush clearing is needed for the shooting lanes, preserving Liberty Mountain's natural wooded environment.

Upon completion of the range, students, faculty and staff can join the LU Archery Club. Founded by a pair of alumni and a Liberty freshman, the club will serve as a way to share the Gospel with other sportsmen while giving enthusiasts a chance to enjoy the outdoors.

"We are going to start out with compound and public competitions and move to the Olympic style competitions once we get the club up and going," said John Allen, the club's alumni advisor. "We are also looking to provide archery hunting up on the backside of the Jack Mountain property, which is the mountain behind Camp Hydaway."

Fifty acres of farmland off Lone Jack Road is being prepared for LU's equestrian center. The center is expected to open in 2010, establishing a women's equestrian team. Students who are not members of the team will have the opportunity to board their own horses while on campus.

Neighboring the equestrian center will be a 200-acre parcel reserved for dirt bike trails. The university is currently looking at installing a race track complete with X-game style jumps.

"We'll have a place where (students) can store their bikes on campus," said Trey Falwell, who is overseeing the project. And we'll have a

permanent ramp (near the track), so they don't have to bring their own ramps. This will make it easy for them to get over there and get back to campus.”

LU's paintball team now has a place on campus to prepare for competitions. The complex consists of two fields with a retractable netting system made with high mesh. A road and parking lot is currently being constructed that will direct players to the field. Students may use the fields during non-practice hours. When visiting LU, prospective students may also take advantage of the university's fields during events such as College for a Weekend.

A facility between the paintball fields will provide patrons access to bathrooms and a rental office. Both the paintball team and the archery club will use the building for equipment storage.

LU Radiance, the university's all-female synchronized skating team is set to take the ice this fall. Similar to their swimming counterparts, synchronized skaters perform choreographed formations on the ice, simultaneously. “We are probably going to start off with eight to 10 skaters, which is really cool considering that this will be our first year,” said coach Tatiana Gomez. “We are looking to hopefully attend at least one competition this year.”

Other recreational projects in the works at LU include a skeet/trap shooting range and an indoor soccer complex.

*For a complete list of future trips, clubs and activities, check out Ultimate LU on the Web at [www.ultimatelu.com](http://www.ultimatelu.com).*