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# Timeline and Important Dates of Liberty University

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## Timelines and Dates of Important Events

### Liberty University

1971:

- History Department established.
- Education Department established.
- Lynchburg Baptist College founded by Dr. Jerry Falwell. The college opened with 154 students meeting in Thomas Road Baptist Church.
- January, 1971 – Dr. Falwell announces his intention of founding a university. (CHLU)
- September 13, 1971 – First day of classes (1971-1972 Course Catalog).

1972:

- The first **Scaremare** is held.
- A Bible Institute was established for those who wanted a two-year, in-depth study of the English Bible. (CHLU)
- Property for a new campus was purchased on Candler's Mountain. (CHLU)
- January, 1972 – The first student body at Liberty take a week-long trip to Israel. (AIJ)
- January 18, 1972 – Lynchburg Baptist College incorporated.

1972-1973:

- 536 students started the school year. (CHLU)

1973:

- **Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary** opens.
- Dr. J. Gordon Henry was appointed Academic Dean. (CHLU)
- Dr. A. Pierre Guillermin was appointed Executive Vice-President. (CHLU)
- The student body takes a week-long trip to England. (AIJ)
- September 27, 1973 – LBC plays its first football game vs. Massanutten Military Academy (a prep school). LBC lost 42-32. (Kevin Keys)
- October 25, 1973 – LBC wins its first football game playing against Ferrum Junior College with a score of 29-7. (Kevin Keys)

1973-1974:

- A six-story hotel was purchased in the downtown area to house students and to hold classes. (CHLU)

1974:

- The first class graduates.
- The **Telecommunications Department** is established.
- The Wrestling team is founded by Bob Bonheim. (AIJ)
- Ed Dobson coaches the first soccer team. (AIJ)
- The **Board of Trustees** is established? (Faculty Handbook 1973-1974, Course Catalogs 1973-1974, 1974-1975)

- April, 1974 – Lynchburg Baptist College receives permission to grant degrees from the Virginia State Council of Higher Education.
- May 22, 1974 - LBC's first Commencement speaker, Dr. J. Harold Smith. (CHLU)

1974-1975:

- 1,428 students began the school year. (CHLU)

1975:

- First Lady Flames basketball game.
- Dr. A. Pierre Guillermin was named President of LBC and Lynchburg Baptist Theological Seminary. (CHLU)
- The first Miss Liberty is crowned.
- The Department of Psychology is established.
- Dr. Falwell is named clergyman of the year.
- January – July, 1975 – The LBC Chorale and Jerry Falwell toured America to raise funds for LBC. (AIJ)
- July 13, 1975 – College name changed to **Liberty Baptist College**.

1975-1976:

- The LBC School colors are changed from yellow and green to red white and royal blue.

1976:

- The **Liberty Bell** is constructed as part of the bicentennial celebration. With the help of Tom Arnold and Les Shoffer, this is the story behind the Liberty Bell: The Liberty Bell, housed in a building erected on the School of Religion parking lot, was unveiled on July 4, 1976 on Liberty Mountain in commemoration of America's bicentennial as part of a fund raising campaign. Dr. B. R. Lakin delivered the message that day on the present site of the Barnes and Noble bookstore currently under construction. The Liberty Bell was commissioned by the school and is engraved with 70,000 names of "Friends of Liberty." In 1977, construction of the campus began on Liberty Mountain.
- The intramural sports program is established.
- The Track Team is added (*News & Advance* 02-06-76)
- LBC wrestling team won the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) National Championship. (CHLU)

1976-1977:

- 1,871 students started classes; some had to temporarily sleep on the floor due to the rapid increase in students. (CHLU)

1977:

- Department of Biology and Chemistry established.
- Second year in a row that the wrestling team won the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) National Championship. (CHLU)

- January 21, 1977 - 2,500 students, faculty, and administration met on Liberty Mountain for a prayer meeting. They prayed that all of the debt would be cleared and construction would begin on the mount for school buildings. (CHLU)
- February 1977 - 2.5 million dollars was received to erase the debt. (CHLU)
- March 1, 1977 - LBC building program began for the campus buildings. (CHLU)
- April 21, 1977 – Grading begins on Liberty Mountain
- June 1977 - LBC was granted Candidate Status with Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Commission on Colleges (COC). (CHLU)
- September 2, 1977 - 3,500 students, faculty, and friends saw two classroom buildings and others in progress. (CHLU)
- December 1977 - 12 dorms were completed and ready to use. (CHLU)

1977 – 1978:

- 150 men were housed at the Kennedy House, an abandoned hospital, and the college rented a floor of the Ramada Inn

1978:

- Learning assistance center is established.
- May 7, 1978 - 403 students graduated – the largest class LBC had graduated. (CHLU)  
The first commencement held on Liberty Mountain. (AIJ)
- The Chapel tent is commissioned. The tent was leased to use for a meeting place for chapel services. (CHLU)

1978 – 1979:

- 1,000 freshmen arrived on campus to start their college career at LBC. (CHLU)

1979:

- Teacher Education building is completed.
- Multi-purpose center is built.
- Wrestling and Track won the NCCAA National Championships. (CHLU)
- 21 buildings were completed or under construction. (CHLU)
- The “I Love America” rallies began. (AIJ)
- March 30, 1979 - Dedication of 3,000 seat gymnasium. (CHLU)

1979 – 1980:

- Basketball team won the NCCAA National Basketball Championship in Division I. (CHLU)

1980:

- The Academic Awards Assembly begins.
- LBC was granted Candidate Status with Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS). (CHLU)
- February 2, 1980 - Liberty Bible Institute merges with the Division of Religion to form the Institute of Biblical Studies headed by Harold Wilmington.
- October, 1980 - Presidential candidate Ronald Reagan speaks to the National Religious Broadcasters at LBC. (Selah 1981)

- December 12, 1980 – LU receives accreditation from SACS retroactive to May 1980 class.

1981:

- The Prayer Chapel is constructed.
- Tennis courts are built.
- LBC obtains membership in the National Collegiate Athletic Association at the Division II level.
- Track Team won NCCAA National title. (CHLU)
- The last 277 students living at the hotel were moved onto Liberty Mountain to live in the dorms. (CHLU)
- **Liberty Counsel** is created. (N&A article 6/17/81)
- June 17, 1981 - The **WRVL** radio station first broadcast.
- October 13, 1981 – Dr. Duane Gish debates Dr. Russell Doolittle on the topic of evolution. (AIJ)

1981 – 1982:

- 3,528 Students began school at LBC. (CHLU)
- 25 buildings were on campus (18 dorms, 4 classroom buildings, a multi-purpose center, administration building, and prayer chapel). (CHLU)

1982:

- The Masters of Education program is established.
- The Center for Creation Studies is established.
- The School of Religion building is constructed.
- February 9, 1982 – The “Understanding Politics Conference” at LBC hosts former Polish Ambassador Romuald Spasowski. (AIJ)
- April 25, 1982 - B.R. Lakin School of Religion Building dedicated; 1,050 students were trained for full-time Christian service in 1982-83. (CHLU)
- September 24, 1982 – Nine teacher education programs are certified by the Virginia Board of Education.

1982 – 1983:

- The school paper *Liberty Champion* began publication. (CHLU)

1983:

- The Department of Journalism is established.
- The Department of Human Ecology is established.
- April 13, 1983 - Vice President George Bush spoke at LBC. (CHLU)
- October 3, 1983 - Ted Kennedy speaks on campus.

1984:

- Self study program began.
- The monument to the unborn babies is built.
- LBC received Accreditation from TRACS. (CHLU)

- April 11, 1984 – The three day conference “Baptist Fundamentalism ‘84” begins.
- August, 1984 – The Biology education program is certified by the Virginia Board of Education after the ACLU protests.
- December 11, 1984 – LU approved as a level III institution by SACS. SACS accredited the Graduate programs in Religion and Education (CHLU).

1985:

- DeMoss Hall is donated and constructed.
- The courtyard of flags is constructed.
- The Language lab is constructed.
- The History Department is established.
- Center for Creation Studies and the Museum of Earth and Life History were established. (CHLU)
- Arthur S. DeMoss Learning Center was erected in memory of Arthur S. DeMoss. (CHLU)
- The Hancock Athletic Center was added (CHLU)
- The courtyard was redesigned with 52 flags. (AIJ)
- The first LIGHT campaign ministers in Korea and the Philippines.
- Liberty School of Life Long Learning (LUSLLL) was founded, offering an AA, BS, MA, and MBS. (CHLU)
- May 2, 1985 – College name changed to **Liberty University**. (CHLU)
- May 6, 1985 - 668 students graduated. (CHLU)
- November 5-6, 1985 – Treasure Island floods. (AIJ)

1985 – 1986:

- The campus was comprised of 47 buildings with 5,930 students enrolled for this academic year. (CHLU)
- LU added four three-story dorms and expanded the cafeteria. (CHLU)

1986:

- WLBU TV is established
- The Center for Creation Studies museum opens.
- December 18, 1986 – SACS approves a ten-year reaffirmation.

1987:

- The bookstore moves to the DeMoss location.
- February, 1987 – LU applies for SACS level IV status.
- December, 1987 - LU received approval for level-four candidate status offering the D.Min. and M.B.A. degrees. (CHLU)
- December 10, 1987 - SCHE authorizes enrollment for MBA and DMIN.

1987 – 1988:

- School of Religion offered course work for the D.Min. degree, LU's first Doctoral program. (CHLU)

1988:

- LU is approved for SACS level IV.
- The Department of Health Sciences is established.
- The Computer Lab is opened.
- The College of General Studies is established.
- The LU athletic program is inducted into the NCAA.
- The senior dorms are built.
- The *Chronicle of Higher Education* declares LU to be “the largest private university in the state of Virginia”.
- Fall 1988 - LU’s Athletic Program was accepted by the NCAA into Division I level for all 16 men's and women's sports. (CHLU)

1988 – 1989:

- LU was recognized as the largest private university in the state of Virginia. (CHLU)
- Almost 11,000 students in both resident and external degree programs were enrolled in fall 1988, representing 50 states and more than 30 foreign nations. (CHLU)
- 268 full- and part-time faculty served LU. (CHLU)

1989:

- The first Health Outreach team ministries go to Haiti.
- An Olympic size track facility is constructed.
- Fall 1989 - Sam Rutigliano appointed Head Football Coach. (CHLU)
- January, 1989 - Liberty Center for Research and Scholarship was founded to internally help facilitate the integration of academic disciplines around a biblical world view. (CHLU)
- January 22, 1989 - First Student Center opened - named for David A. DeMoss, a student who died in an automobile accident while attending Liberty. (CHLU)
- May 8, 1989 - Ground was broken for a 12,000-seat football stadium. (CHLU)
- October 21, 1989 - Stadium officially opened to a Homecoming crowd of 12,750. (CHLU)
- November, 1989 - Track and Field facility was completed. (CHLU)

1990:

- LU received Reaffirmation of Accreditation from TRACS. (CHLU)
- The new science labs are constructed.
- May 12, 1990 - President George H.W. Bush speaks at commencement.
- October 22, 1990 - The Vines Center is completed. It is opened to host Super Conference. (CHLU)
- November 30, 1990 - Vines Center was dedicated, named in honor of Odie and Minnie Vines – one of the largest and finest on-campus arenas in the state of Virginia. (CHLU)
- November, 1990 – A Chicago-based company reneges on a multi-million dollar bond deal causing all short-term debt to come due. (AIJ)

1991:

- The first class of nursing students graduates.

- The Freshman seminar is instituted.
- March 14, 1991 – LU President Dr. A.P. Guillermin is confirmed to the national Advisory Council on Educational Research and Improvement after having been nominated by President George H.W. Bush. (AIJ)
- May, 1991 - LU enters the Big South Conference.

1991 – 1992:

- Liberty Champion received "All American Paper" award with four marks of distinction from the Associated College Press. (CHLU)

1992:

- The Nursing department moves into a new complex of offices, classrooms, conference room and skills laboratory.
- Liberty Bible Institute reopens.
- Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary separates from the School of Religion.
- Senior dorms close.
- The LU debt restructuring is finalized.
- Summer 1992 - The Reber-Thomas dining hall opens.
- Fall, 1992 - The Office for Minority and International students was established. (CHLU)

1993:

- LU's chapter of Alpha Lambda Delta was named the winner of the 1993 Order of the Torch. (CHLU)
- March, 1993 - Initial accreditation of Nursing Program by National League for Nursing (NLN). (CHLU)
- May 15, 1993 - Commencement speaker, Dr. James Dobson, at LU's 20<sup>th</sup> Commencement exercises in the Vines Center. (CHLU)

1993 – 1994:

- Enrollment was 9,178 including both resident and external degree students. (CHLU)

1994:

- March 7, 1994 - Flames Men's Basketball won the Big South Conference Tournament and received its first NCAA Tournament berth in its third year of eligibility. (CHLU)
- October 29, 1994 - The LU Stadium received a new name – Williams Stadium in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Williams. (CHLU)

1994 – 1995:

- The Debate Team claimed National Championships in both the American Debate Association and the National Debate Tournament. (CHLU)
- LU's basketball team hosted the Big South Conference Tournament; there was a tournament attendance record broken with more than 18,000 fans attending the Big South games. (CHLU)
- Track and Field team won the Big South Conference. (CHLU)



1995:

- Super Conference XIV heard House Speaker Newt Gingrich. (CHLU)
- Spring, 1995 - Dr. Richard Barnhart, Director of Academic Computing, announced entrance to the information highway. (CHLU)
- October 10, 1995 – The Earl H. Schilling Center is dedicated. (AIJ)

1995 – 1996:

- The Debate Team claimed for the second year in a row National Championships in both the American Debate Association and the National Debate Tournament. (CHLU)

1996:

- May, 1996 - Commencement speaker, Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. (CHLU)

1997:

- LU received Reaffirmation of Accreditation from SACS. (CHLU)
- January, 1997 - National League for Nursing (NLN) reaccreditation of Nursing Program. (CHLU)
- May, 1997 - Commencement speaker, Dr. Billy Graham, evangelist. (CHLU)
- June 19, 1997 - Dr. A. Pierre Guillermin retired after 22 years of service as LU's second president. (AIJ)
- June 19, 1997 - Dr. John M. Borek, Jr. was appointed President by the Board of Trustees. (CHLU)

1998:

- Information Technology Resource Center (ITRC) received approval as an official Microsoft Training Center. (CHLU)
- Teacher Education Program re-certified by ACSI. (CHLU)
- The Hangar Food Court was constructed. (CHLU)
- April, 1998 - Construction began on Dorm 33, a six-story residence hall for 400 female students. (CHLU)
- May, 1998 - Commencement speaker, Dr. John M. Borek, Jr., LU President. (CHLU)
- August, 1998 - NCAA re-certification of LU's Athletic Program. (CHLU)
- August, 1998 - Liberty University Worship Institute established. (CHLU)
- September 2, 1998 - LU library was renamed the A. Pierre Guillermin Library in honor of LU's President Emeritus. (CHLU)
- September 12, 1998 - Dedication and reopening of the renovated David's Place. (CHLU)

1999:

- November 15, 1999 - Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia voted unanimously to recognize LU as a fully cooperating institution affiliated with the SBCV. (CHLU)

2000:

- January 7, 2000 – The Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees votes to begin immediate construction to add three floors to the DeMoss building. (AIJ)

- January 12, 2000 - Official approval by the State Council of Higher Education in Virginia (SCHEV) to use EDP courses in graduate education for Virginia Teacher Licensure. (CHLU)
- January 13, 2000 - Coach Sam Rutigliano retired as Head Football Coach. (CHLU)
- July 19, 2000 - SCHEV approves the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree program. (CHLU)
- September 20, 2000 - TRACS Reaffirmation of LU until 2010. (CHLU)
- October 3, 2000 - The LaHaye Lounge in Dorm 13 was dedicated. (CHLU)
- December, 2000 - Expansion and renovation begins on the 4-floor DeMoss Learning Center. (CHLU)

#### 2001:

- Summer, 2001 - On-line payment and check-in processes established to enhance student services. (CHLU)
- Summer, 2001 - A Cyber Lounge is established in the Reber-Thomas Dining Hall. (CHLU)
- April, 2001 - TRACS approves the MSN degree program. (CHLU)
- May, 2001 - LU received a \$4.5 million dollar leadership gift and a matching amount to provide the funding for the Tim and Beverly LaHaye Student Center. (CHLU)
- July 18, 2001 - SCHEV approves LU's first Ph.D. program with concentrations in Professional Counseling and Pastoral Counseling. (CHLU)
- July 19, 2001 - SACS approves the M.S.N. degree program, in which students will enroll for the Fall Semester. (CHLU)
- August 22, 2001 - Fall Semester begins with classes convening in the newly refurbished first floor of the DeMoss Learning Center. (CHLU)

#### 2002:

- Charles Billingsley is appointed to lead LU's new National Center for Worship Training with Dr. Ron Geise to coordinate the academic degrees. (AIJ)
- January, 2002 - Spring Semester begins with classes convening in the new second floor of DeMoss Learning Center. (CHLU)
- April, 2002 - Dr. David DeWitt, Biology professor, receives 3-year grant (\$123,529) from the National Institute of Health for his Alzheimer's disease research. (CHLU)
- April 30, 2002 - SACS approves the Ph.D. in Counseling program to commence in Fall 2002. (CHLU)
- May, 2002 - Women's softball team wins Big South Conference Softball Championship. (CHLU)
- May, 2002 - LU Athletic Department is awarded the Big South Conference Sasser Cup for 2001-2002; this is the 4<sup>th</sup> Commissioner's Cup awarded to LU in the last 5 years. (CHLU)
- May, 2002 - The Center for Teaching Excellence was established to provide opportunities for faculty development. (CHLU)
- August, 2002 - Air Force ROTC program initiated. (CHLU)

- October, 2002 - LU Nursing Department hosted over 400 nurses from central Virginia and surrounding states for the Centra Health Nursing Summit "Creating a New Tomorrow". (CHLU)
- October, 2002 - Graduate Senate established. (CHLU)
- October, 2002 - Integrated Learning Resource Center (ILRC) established merging the learning resources of the library (print and electronic) with the academic computing labs. (CHLU)
- October 8, 2002 - LU Board of Trustees approves the School of Law, LU's first professional school. (CHLU)

2003:

- Spring, 2003 - Liberty Debate wins the 2002-2003 CEDA and NDT national championships. (CHLU)
- Summer, 2003 - English Language Institute (ELI) was initiated. (CHLU)
- Fall, 2003 - Record number of students enrolled in the University Honors Program – 396. (CHLU)
- Fall, 2003 - Campus East residence hall community of 6 multi-story apartment dormitories was completed. (CHLU)
- Fall, 2003 - Ridgeway Television Studio was constructed in the Vines Center to produce live broadcasts of Convocation services and other events. (CHLU)
- January 20, 2003 - SCHEV approves the Juris Doctorate (JD) degree. (CHLU)
- January 20, 2003 - SCHEV gives full approval to confer the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree. (CHLU)
- February, 2003 - Hobby Lobby purchased the 888,000 square foot Ericsson facility located on 133 acres adjoining Liberty University and donated the facility to Jerry Falwell Ministries. (CHLU)
- March 28, 2003 - SCHEV approves the Bachelor of Science in Management Information Systems. (CHLU)
- March 28, 2003 - SCHEV approves the Post-Graduate Degree, Education Specialist (Ed.S.). (CHLU)
- April, 2003 - The *Champion* newspaper wins 7 awards in the annual Virginia Press Association competition for Virginia student newspapers. (CHLU)
- May, 2003 - Commencement speaker, Dr. Adrian Rogers, Pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tennessee; Founder, Love Worth Finding Ministries. (CHLU)
- August, 2003 - Visitor's Center relocated to the Grand Lobby of the DeMoss Learning Center. (CHLU)
- August 22, 2003 - Falwell Library/Museum opens adjacent to the Grand Lobby of the DeMoss Learning Center. (CHLU)
- October, 2003 - Super Conference: Dr. Rick Warren and the Purpose Driven Church Conference. (CHLU)
- October 8, 2003 - Sport Management Program Review Council (SMPRC) re-approves the Sport Management Program until June 30, 2010. (CHLU)
- October 29, 2003 - Teacher Education Program achieves first time National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) accreditation at the initial teacher preparation level and provisional accreditation at the advanced preparation level. (CHLU)

- November, 2003 - TRACS gives full approval of Ed.D. and M.S.N. degree programs. (CHLU)
- November 12, 2003 - ACSI approves the Educational Leadership and Administration Graduate Program with recertification in Spring 2012. (CHLU)

2004:

- Fall, 2004 - 13 new residence halls and a club house were constructed at Campus East; a pedestrian tunnel connecting Campus East to Main Campus was completed. (CHLU)
- March, 2004 - LU Debate wins the American Debate Association national championship. (CHLU)
- March 1, 2004 – The nationally televised program “Live from Liberty” is begun. (AIJ)
- March 24, 2004 - Dr. John M. Borek, Jr. announces his resignation as President of LU, effective June 30, 2004. (CHLU)
- April 24, 2004 - Title deed to the 113-acre 880,000 square foot facility (formerly Ericsson) was presented to Dr. Falwell and TRBC. (CHLU)
- April 29, 2004 - LU dedicated the C. Daniel Kim International Student Center. (CHLU)
- May 27, 2004 - Dr. Falwell announced that the Board of Trustees authorized the division of the School of Business and Government with the creation of the Helms School of Government. (CHLU)
- June, 2004 - Athletic Training program receives 5-year Initial Accreditation from the Committee on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). (CHLU)
- July, 2004 - David L. Young appointed Executive Vice President/COO of Liberty University. (CHLU)
- July 6, 2004 - SACS approves the J.D. program(CHLU)
- August 13, 2004 - LU Law School opened with an inaugural class of 60 students. (CHLU)
- September 27, 2004 - SACS approves the M.A. in Communication Studies degree program. (CHLU)
- October, 2004 – Nursing Department receives 10 year accreditation for the BSN and 5 year accreditation for the MSN program from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). (CHLU)
- October 6, 2004 - LU honors former Senator Jesse Helms by publicly naming the newly distinct and separate School of Government as the Liberty University Helms School of Government during a special convocation. (CHLU)
- November, 2004 - The LaHaye Student Center on Campus North officially opens. (CHLU)
- December 22, 2004 - LU opens a new highway ramp on U.S. Route 460 West. (CHLU)

2005:

- March 11, 2005 - Dr. Thom Park named Director of Athletics. (CHLU)
- December 2, 2005 - Danny Rocco named Head Football Coach. (CHLU)

2006:

- January 11, 2006 - LU Hockey Team plays for the first time on home ice in the LaHaye Ice Center. (CHLU)

- January 23, 2006 - Jeff Barber announced as new Athletics Director. (CHLU)
- February 13, 2006 - The American Bar Association (ABA) grants provisional accreditation to the Liberty University School of Law at the earliest date possible for a new law school. (CHLU)
- March 6, 2006 - Dr. Ergun Caner installed as President of Liberty Theological Seminary. (CHLU)
- April 17, 2006 - Liberty University Debate, in its 25<sup>th</sup> year of competition, makes history by winning all three National Policy Debate Rankings Championships. (CHLU)
- June 30, 2006 - Law School Founding Dean, Bruce Green, resigns. (CHLU)
- July, 2006 - Ronald S. Godwin appointed Executive Vice President/COO of Liberty University. (CHLU)
- July 19, 2006 - SACS approves the Master of Science in Accounting degree program. (CHLU)
- August, 2006 - DLP Academic Policy changes: Associate Deans for each College/School responsible for DLP. (CHLU)
- August, 2006 - Newly-constructed A. L. Williams Football Operations Center opens. (CHLU)
- August, 2006 - The Graduate Writing Center was established. (CHLU)
- October, 2006 - LU Transit Services internally operated transit service launched. (CHLU)
- October 19, 2006 - Mathew D. Staver appointed Dean of LU School of Law. (CHLU)
- December 4, 2006 - Vice Chancellor, Jerry Falwell, Jr., named Blue Ridge Business Journal's Business Person of the Year. (CHLU)
- December 11, 2006 - Liberty University is reaffirmed by SACS; next reaffirmation is 2016. (CHLU)

2007:

- January, 2007 - LU Transit formed a partnership with the Greater Lynchburg Transportation Company (GLTC). (CHLU)
- February, 2007 - **Liberty Bible Institute** renamed **Willmington School of the Bible**. (CHLU)
- March, 2007 - Liberty University's Board of Trustees approves the initiation of the **School of Engineering and Computational Science**, replacing the Center for Computer and Information Technology. (CHLU)
- April 17, 2007 - LU Debate sweeps debate rankings championships for the second consecutive year. (CHLU)
- April 25, 2007 - Official groundbreaking for the Towns/Alumni Ministry Training Center, a 1,100 seat lecture hall named in honor of Dr. Elmer Towns, Co-Founder of Liberty University. (CHLU)
- April 30, 2007 - SACS approves the B.S. in Computer Engineering, B.S. in Electrical Engineering, B.S. in Industrial and Systems Engineering, and B.S. in Software Engineering degree programs. (CHLU)
- May, 2007 - Six four-story apartment-style brick dorms are added to Campus East; this increases the total number of buildings on Campus East to 25. (CHLU)
- May, 2007 - Ritchie McKay named LU Men's Basketball Coach. (CHLU)
- May 8, 2007 - LU **Monogram** is completed. (CHLU)

- May 15, 2007 – Dr. Jerry Falwell dies at age 73.
- May 19, 2007 - LU Law School graduates its inaugural class. (CHLU)
- June 20, 2007 - Liberty University launches Liberty University Online Academy offering a full year's curriculum, plus enrichment courses, for grades 3 through 12 via the Internet. (CHLU)
- June 22, 2007 - SACS approves the Master of Arts in English degree program. (CHLU)
- June 28, 2007 - The **School of Engineering and Computational Sciences** is established with Dr. Ron Sones as Dean of the School. (CHLU)
- July 19, 2007 - SACS approves the Associate of Arts in Government degree program. (CHLU)
- August 10, 2007 - Chancellor Jerry Falwell, Jr. announces that Liberty University is debt-free for the first time in its history due to life insurance policies on Dr. Falwell. (CHLU)
- August 13, 2007 - SACS approves the Master of Sacred Theology (STM) degree program. (CHLU)
- August 20, 2007 - Liberty University has record enrollment of 10,400 on campus students on the first day of classes. (CHLU)
- September 7, 2007 - Sandor Development Co. of Scottsdale, Arizona donates the Plaza Shopping Center, consisting of 42 acres and 467,000 square feet of buildings, to Liberty University. (CHLU)
- September 7, 2007 - SACS approves the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) degree program. (CHLU)
- October, 2007 - *The National Liberty Journal* renamed *The Liberty Journal* and restyled in a new magazine format. (CHLU)
- December, 2007 - LU seeks City of Lynchburg approval to expand to 15,000 students. Plans submitted to increase on new campus housing for 5,166 students. (CHLU)
- December 18, 2007 – **Liberty Theological Seminary** changes its name back to **Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary**.

2008:

- The university bookstore moves to a freestanding building.
- January 23, 2008 - LU's Distance Learning Program ranked third in nation by the Online Education Database. (CHLU)
- February, 2008 – The Graduate Center for Research and Evaluation becomes the Center for Research and scholarship.
- February 14, 2008 - SACS approves online certificate programs in DLP: Computer-Based Skills; Counseling and Care Giving; Global Executive; Bible Exposition, Pastoral Leadership and Global Evangelism. (CHLU)
- February 26, 2008 - Governor Timothy M. Kaine signed legislation naming a section of U.S. 460 in Lynchburg the “Jerry Falwell Parkway”. (CHLU)
- March, 2008 - Montview, former residence of Senator Carter Glass and the site of Dr. Jerry Falwell's office, becomes a museum and VIP guest bed and breakfast. (CHLU)
- March 25, 2008 - DLP enrolls its 25,000<sup>th</sup> student, exceeding the enrollment goal of 25,000 students by June 2009. (CHLU)
- April 2, 2008 - The Center for Pre-Law Studies in the Helms School of Government is dedicated. (CHLU)

- April 24, 2008 - The **Department of Aviation** became the **School of Aeronautics**.
- May 20, 2008 - SACS approves the Ph.D. in Theology and Apologetics and the M.A. in History. (CHLU)
- June 11, 2008 - LU voluntarily withdraws from its accreditation through TRACS. (CHLU)
- June 24, 2008 - New fountain flows in front of the Arthur S. DeMoss Learning Center. (CHLU)
- July 1, 2008 - LU closes out enrollment for Fall 2008 with an expected enrollment of 11,300; for the first time in LUs history 400 students are placed on a waiting list. (CHLU)
- August 12, 2008 - Dr. Ron Godwin named Vice Chancellor. (CHLU)
- September, 2008 - LU joins the Council of Independent Colleges in Virginia (CICV). (CHLU)
- September 3, 2008 - Doc's Diner Grand Opening. (CHLU)
- September 19, 2008 – The Towns Alumni auditorium was officially dedicated and opened. (CHLU)
- September 22, 2008 – LU joins the Council of Independent Colleges in Virginia. (CHLU)
- November 4, 2008 - The LU Distance Learning Program changes its name to Liberty University Online.

2009:

- The Chancellor establishes the CRS fund to finance the Center for Research and Scholarship.

2010:

- Dr. Elmer Towns becomes the Dean of the Seminary.
- Winter – the building of a library building was announced.
- January 7, 2010 – The Center for Worship and Music moves from the College of Arts & Sciences to the School of Religion. Doug Randlett assumes the title of Associate Dean for Practical and Experiential Education.
- January 23, 2010 - The Grand opening of the National Civil War Chaplin's Museum is held. CSA and US Honor Guards were at the event with black powder rifles.
- March 31, 2010 – The Center for Creation Studies at Liberty University celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and dedicates the new Hall of Creation with displays and exhibits.
- August, 2010 – The Law School receives full accreditation from the American Bar Association.

2011:

- Barbara Baxter, the director of the Law Library retired.
- March 28-April 1, 2011 – The first Israel Emphasis week was held at Liberty University.

### **Thomas Road Baptist Church**

1956:

- June 17, 1956 – The first service of Thomas Road Baptist Church is held in Mountain View Elementary School. 35 adults attended as well as their children. (AIJ)

- June 21, 1956 – A prayer meeting is held in the abandoned Donald Duck Bottling Company building. An organizational meeting is held where Dr. Jerry Falwell is formally made the pastor, the name Thomas Road Baptist Church is approved, a simple constitution and by-laws are approved and the first three trustees are elected. (AIJ)
- June 24, 1956 – The first church service is held in the Donald Duck Bottling Company building. (AIJ)
- September, 1956 – Jerry Falwell begins a weekly broadcast program called “The Deep Things of God”. (AIJ)
- December, 1956 – The half hour weekly television broadcast “Thomas Road Baptist Church Presents” is aired with WLVA, the Lynchburg ABC affiliate. (AIJ)

1957:

- June 16, 1957 – TRBC celebrates its first anniversary. 864 people attend Sunday school. (AIJ)

1962:

- December 10, 1962 – TRBC signs a contract with J.E. Jamerson & Sons to build the second TRBC sanctuary. (AIJ)

1963:

- Spring, 1963 – TRBC buys Treasure Island Youth Camp which was previously a YMCA family recreational center. (AIJ)

1964:

- March 29, 1964 – the TRBC congregation moves into the new 1,000 seat auditorium (named the Moody building). (AIJ)
- June 1, 1964 – Jerry Falwell announces plans to construct a new nineteen room educational building. (AIJ)

1965:

- The two-story Spurgeon building is completed. (AIJ)

1966:

- A building is begun on a third building for TRBC.

1967:

- The Deaf Ministry is begun at TRBC.

1968:

- TRBC celebrates its 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary by inviting Pastor Oliver B. Greene to pitch his big-top tent in the parking lot and hold a revival. 5,040 attended. (AIJ)
- The Bus Ministry is begun.

1969:

- April 6, 1969 – Ground is broken for the construction of a new sanctuary and two large educational buildings at TRBC. (AIJ)



- June 2, 1969 – construction is begun on the octagon-shaped sanctuary based on a design by Thomas Jefferson. (AIJ)
- June 8, 1969 – TRBC celebrates its 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the Lynchburg Municipal Stadium. 7,250 people attend. (AIJ)

1970:

- TRBC installs color cameras for broadcasts from the new TRBC sanctuary. (AIJ)
- January, 1970 – The two new educational buildings at TRBC are completed. (AIJ)
- March 29, 1970 – Frank Wellington conducts a “Kid’s Crusade”, 1,000 children attend. (AIJ)
- June 28, 1970 – The new sanctuary of TRBC opens and TRBC celebrates its 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary. (AIJ)

1971:

- December, 1971 - The first Living Christmas Tree is presented. (AIJ)

1972:

- July 24, 1972 – *Newsweek Magazine* publishes a story proclaiming that TRBC was the fastest growing church in America. (AIJ)
- December, 1972 – William Schief of the Office of Securities and Exchange Commission contacted TRBC about bonds the church had issued the previous year. (AIJ)

1973:

- July 3, 1973 – the church is sued by the Securities and Exchange Commission for fraud and deceit in connection with the bonds issued in 1971.
- August 9, 1973 – the TRBC’s trial in the Securities and Exchange Commission lawsuit begins. (AIJ)
- August 10, 1973 – TRBC is cleared of the fraud and deceit charges. (AIJ)

1974:

- TRBC receives donations of over \$2 million. (AIJ)
- Student Missionary Intern Training for Evangelism (S.M.I.T.E.) is formed at TRBC by Roscoe Brewer. (AIJ)

1977:

- The Annual Outreach Conference is combined with the Pastors and Workers Conference to form the first Super-Conference. Paul Harvey, nationally known radio news commentator, addressed the opening session. “Jesus First” pins were introduced. (AIJ)

1978:

- Missionary teams helped Cambodian refugees.
- S.M.I.T.E. teams helped in Haiti.
- April 8-19, 1978 – Dr. Falwell and a team of evangelical leaders from the U.S. traveled to the Middle East on an invitation from Israel and Egypt. They met with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, and other heads of state.

1979:

- TRBC is featured in a *Wall Street Journal* article about the “electric church”. (AIJ)
- TRBC, working with Larry Ward of Food for the Hungry International, gathered aid for the Southeast Asian “Boat People”. (AIJ)

1984:

- TRBC hosts the National Baptist Bible Fellowship Conference.

1992:

- June 14, 1992 – Lt. Col. Oliver North shares his personal testimony as TRBC celebrates its 36<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

1995:

- March 25, 1995 – TRBC hosts a Promise Keepers rally.

1999:

- October 24, 1999 – TRBC hosts a controversial summit meeting with high profile leaders of the homosexual movement. The summit called for an end to violence against homosexuals. (AIJ)

2001:

- July 1, 2001 – TRBC celebrates its 45 anniversary and the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of America. Charlton Heston attended and spoke on the price of freedom. Tino Wallenda of the Flying Wallenda family walked a 80 ft high 400 ft long wire as he gave his testimony. (AIJ)
- November 9, 2001 – Jerry Falwell files a federal lawsuit challenging Virginia’s laws that prohibit churches from incorporating. (AIJ)

2002:

- February 2, 2002 – TRBC hosts the first “Day of Prophecy” Conference which also marked the opening of the Tim LaHaye School of Prophecy. (AIJ)
- April, 2002 – After winning their lawsuit, TRBC becomes the first church to incorporate in Virginia since 1777. (AIJ)
- November, 2002 – TRBC contracts to buy the Ericsson Complex. (AIJ)

2006:

- July 2, 2006 – TRBC holds its first service in the new sanctuary on Campus North. (N&A 07-02-2006)

### **Falwell Ministries**

1959:

- January, 1959 – Jerry Falwell buys a farm in Stonewall Virginia and hires Mr. and Mrs. W.D. Greene as the first directors of the **Elim Home** for Alcoholics. (AIJ)

1964:

- December, 1964 – **Elim Home** for Alcoholics moves to Madison Heights. Ray and Amanda Horsley take over as directors. (AIJ)

1965:

- The prison ministry **Hope Aglow Ministries** was founded in 1965 by Rev. Ed and Mrs. Alfreda Martin. (AIJ)

1979:

- The Moral Majority was founded on June 6, 1979 (MOR1-1-1-2). It was founded by Dr. Jerry Falwell, Dr. Tim LaHaye, Dr. Bob Billings, Dr. Charles Stanley, Dr. D. James Kennedy, and Dr. Greg Dixon (Evangelical Review 1981). The **Moral Majority** was disbanded in 1989.

1981:

- A legal arm for the **Moral Majority** is created in 1981 (article June 24, 1981).
- June 17, 1981 - The **WRVL** radio station first broadcast.

1982:

- The **Liberty Godparent Home** is founded by Dr. Jerry Falwell. (AIJ)
- The Fundamentalist Journal begins publication. (AIJ)

1984:

- David Horsley takes over as the director of the **Elim Home** after the death of his father, Ray Horsley, the former director. (AIJ)

1985:

- November 5-6, 1985 - The James River flood of 1985 wipes out **Treasure Island**. (AIJ)
- November 11, 1985 – The Save-A-Baby ministry changes its name to the **Liberty Godparent Home**. (N&A)

1986:

- TRBC begins using Camp Hydaway in place of the flooded Treasure Island. (AIJ)

1988:

- March, 1988 – The TRBC Bus Ministry began an inner city ministry by founding the **Good Samaritan Center**. The name changed to “The Center” in 1993. (AIJ)

1989:

- The **Liberty Counsel** is created in Orlando Florida by Mathew and Anita Staver. (AIJ)

1995:

- February, 1995 - The **National Liberty Journal** is begun as a newspaper. (AIJ)

1999:

- Jerry Falwell joins forces with Mathew and Anita Staver of the **Liberty Counsel**. (AIJ)

2004:

- November 9, 2004 - The **Moral Majority Coalition** is founded.

2007:

- Fall, 2007 – The **National Liberty Journal** changes format from a newspaper to a magazine and is renamed the Liberty Journal.

### **Affiliated Schools**

1967:

- August 28, 1967 - **Lynchburg Christian Academy** is founded as a ministry of Thomas Road Baptist Church with 102 students. LCA was begun with grades Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade. (AIJ)

1973:

- Liberty Theological Seminary is founded.

1975:

- Dr. A. Pierre Guillermin was named President of LBC and Lynchburg Baptist Theological Seminary. (CHLU)

1976:

- In May of 1976 the **Lynchburg Baptist Theological Seminary** graduated its first class.
- September – **Liberty Home Bible Institute** begins with more than 2,000 students. (CHLU)

1980:

- February 2, 1980 - **Liberty Bible Institute** merges with the Division of Religion to form the **Institute of Biblical Studies** headed by Harold Wilmington.

1992:

- Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary separates from the School of Religion.

2001:

- The Tim LaHaye School of Prophecy is founded. (AIJ)

2002:

- February 2, 2002 – TRBC hosts the first “Day of Prophecy” Conference which also marked the opening of the Tim LaHaye School of Prophecy. (AIJ)

2005:

- **Lynchburg Christian Academy** changes its name to **Liberty Christian Academy**. (AIJ)
- September, 2005 – LCA moves to Campus North.

2006:

- March 6, 2006 - Dr. Ergun Caner installed as President of Liberty Theological Seminary. (CHLU)

2007:

- February, 2007 - **Liberty Bible Institute** renamed **Willmington School of the Bible**. (CHLU)
- December 18, 2007 – **Liberty Theological Seminary** changes its name back to **Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary**.

### Jerry Falwell

1933:

- August 11, 1933 – Jerry Falwell is born.

1952:

- January 20, 1952 – Jerry Falwell is saved after attending a service at the Park Avenue Baptist Church. (AIJ)

1958:

- April 12, 1958 – Jerry Falwell marries Macel Pate. (AIJ)

1962:

- June 17, 1962 – Jerry Falwell Jr. is born. (AIJ)

1964:

- November 7, 1964 – Jean Ann Falwell is born. (AIJ)

1966:

- September 7, 1966 – Jonathan Falwell is born. (AIJ)

1968:

- Jerry Falwell is given an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Tennessee Temple School in Chattanooga. (AIJ)

1973:

- November 9, 1973 - Lucile Pate (mother to Macel Falwell) dies of intestinal cancer. (AIJ)

1976:

- September 30, 1976 – Jerry Falwell attends a meeting of religious broadcasters who met with President Gerald R. Ford in the Cabinet Room of the White House. (AIJ)

1977:

- April 28, 1977 – Helen V. Falwell (mother to Jerry Falwell) dies at the age 82. (AIJ)

1979:

- October 8, 1979 – Religious Heritage of America selects Dr. Jerry Falwell as America’s Clergyman of the Year. (AIJ)

1984:

- August 18, 1984 – Samuel Murin Pate (Father to Macel Falwell) dies of heart failure at age 84. (AIJ)

1985:

- January 21, 1985 – Dr. and Mrs. Falwell attend the second inauguration of President Reagan. (AIJ)

1987:

- May 4, 1987 – Jonathan and Macel Falwell graduate from Liberty University. (AIJ)

1989:

- July 26, 1989 – Jerry L. Falwell III (Trey) is born. (AIJ)

1996:

- August, 1996 – Dr. Jerry Falwell meets with newly-elected Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. (AIJ)
- September 9, 1996 – Jerry Falwell launches his “God Save America” campaign consisting of a 52 week prayer campaign across the nation. (AIJ)

1997:

- January 7, 1997 – Jerry Falwell and Larry Flynt are interviewed on the *Larry King Live* show about the release of the movie *The People v. Larry Flynt*. (AIJ)

1998:

- Jerry Falwell begins circulating a weekly email called **The Falwell Confidential**. (AIJ)

2000:

- January 2, 2000 - The Virginia Historical Society names Jerry Falwell as Virginia’s Most Influential Clergyman of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. (AIJ)

2007:

- May 15, 2007 – Dr. Jerry Falwell dies at age 73.

### Outside Events

1984:

- March, 1984 – Pastor B.R. Lakin dies and is buried on Liberty Mountain near the prayer chapel.
- May 15, 1984 – Francis Schaeffer dies of cancer.

1987: The PTL Scandal began when secretary Jessica Hahn accused Jim Bakker of rape. That investigation revealed a large amount of corruption and embezzlement in the organization. PTL

filed for bankruptcy and was managed for a time by Jerry Falwell. Jim Bakker was sent to prison for embezzlement in 1989.

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Term List:

CHLU – Chronological History of Liberty University (from the Office of Institutional Effectiveness).

AIJ – An Incredible Journey (TRBC 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary book)

N&A – News & Advance newspaper