Parents of “19 Kids” share with students

A6

Gaining national spotlight of the NCAA

A10

Voter Registration Deadline Oct. 17

LIBERTY CHAMPION

Today: Cloudy 71/61 Tomorrow: Rain 66/59

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Libertychampion.com

red hot for homecoming

Homecoming 2011 marks the 40th anniversary of Liberty University. Traditions from bonfire to parade fill the weekend’s activity list. This year, the Liberty Flames football team will face off against rival Coastal Carolina. To commemorate this significant occasion, the Champion looks back over the last four decades, acknowledging the university’s growth and success. For the homecoming special edition, see Bl.

H

Council moves public hearing

Vote to be cast soon

Amanda Sullivan

amsullivan3@liberty.edu

Casting votes in the Vines Center may come a little sooner than anticipated. The city manager's office has expedited the public hearing process needed to make changes in local polling precincts. The public hearing will be held Oct. 25. The meeting will also, hopefully, include a vote on the matter.

City Councilman Jeff Helgeson said, "It's a great thing. I've been pushing for Liberty to have its own polling place since 2008," Helgeson said. "I hope to see it come to fruition, hopefully, on Oct. 25, 2011."

Despite the expedited process, the polling place for residential Liberty students will not change for the November election. Students will still be required to cast their ballots at Heritage Elementary for this fall's state elections.

After the Liberty Champion reported on the delays in the approval process

See POLLING, A3

Contact the city manager's office at 434-847-9343.

Liberty counsel represents Texas student

High school freshman suspended for stating opinion on homosexuality

Amy Royall

aroyall@liberty.edu

High School Freshman Dakota Ary was given in-school detention on Sept. 20 for making a statement in class that he believes homosexuality is wrong because of his Christian faith.

Ary was in a German class at Western Hills High School in Fort Worth, Texas when the topic of homosexuality arose. "I'm a Christian and, to me, being homosexual is wrong," Ary explained in an NIC interview. Following his statement of his personal beliefs, the German teacher wrote him an infraction and sent him to the office.

"During the discussion, one student asked what Germans thought about homosexuality in relation to religion," the Liberty Counsel said. "Another student

FYI

Student was given a one-day, in-house suspension.

See COUNCIL, A3

Volume 29 • Issue 06

INSIDE THE CHAMPION

News

Exonerated Liberty alumnus gets falsely-accused man off death row.

A3

Sports

New stadium

Baseball team will get a new stadium by Spring 2013.

A9

Events

Thanksgiving

International office holds Canadian Thanksgiving.

A7

News

A1

Opinion

A4

Sports

A8

Features

A6

Wellness

A6

Homecoming

B1
City remembers 150th anniversary of Civil War

Tabitha Cassidy
libertychampion.com

Walking along the James River in Lynchburg, one would find that he or herself walking on the history of a war. On June 17 and 18, 1864, according to historian Dr. General David Hunter, Union officer offered a speech against General Joseph E. Johnston from the Confederate forces in order to capture the City of Lynchburg.

The battle, according to Dr. Brian Melton, history professor at Liberty University, was really one of a skirmish that lasted two days and turned Hunter’s troops out of Virginia altogether.

Hunter was unsuccessful in his attempt to gain the city, and Lynchburg remains in the possession of the Confederacy, providing the relief forces with keys access to the railroad network that supported General Robert E. Lee’s army throughout the war, according to historiography.

This year marked the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War. While the anniversary of the first battle has stretched passed, as Melton explains, the 150th anniversary of the entire war will be for the next three or four years.

Lynchburg, according to David P. Farmer, is home to the James River, a center for the military during the war. "There were several thousand, I want to say 700,000, Confederate soldiers here," Melton said, speaking about the amount of soldiers who received medical treatment in Lynchburg.

According to Melton, Lynchburg was also a major hospital city. "There were several thousand, I want to say 700,000, Confederate soldiers here," Melton said, speaking about the amount of soldiers who received medical treatment in Lynchburg.

Lynchburg is home to the Civil War museum, which Melton explains, "The museum hosts artifacts from both Confederate and Union soldiers. The museum has been divided into 150th anniversary of the Civil War.

CIVIL WAR

Lynchburg played an important role in the Civil War, and artifacts may

will be expected to carry out any maintenance.

This has been a great partnership between the City of Lynchburg and Liberty University," Grooms said. Although the tender will open first, the tunnel project is still underway. It will be similar to the tunnel that runs under the 460 highway, except with a different support system due to the railroad that it runs under. The tunnel will cost more than $2 million because of the intricate design of working under a railroad system in which the elevation cannot be altered.

"It took us three and half years to get the tunnel approved," Grooms said. Grooms could not give an exact date for the tunnel to open, but did seem positive it would come be the end of the year. The tunnel will connect near the Vitamin Shoppe, leaving a short walk to the bridge crossing Wards Road.

Jones is a news reporter.

Support for Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Antony Royall
aRoyall@liberty.edu

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and organizations all over the country are passionately working to raise awareness and fund important research. Mammo grams Annually A Must (M.A.A.M.) is a Lynchburg-based group dedicated to doing just that.

In 2011, 1.5 million women in the Lynchburg area who would not have been able to afford mammograms have been served. "We were able to sell over 400 tickets and donate approximately $2,000 to the fund," Fire Chief Steven B. Ferguson said in the newsletter.

"Through our screenings, we've found women who have had early-stage breast cancer," Executive Vice President of the Centra Foundation Kathryn Pumphrey said in the newsletter.

In 2010, 175 free mammograms were given and three cancers were discovered, according to the January newsletter.

This year, the Lynchburg Fire Department has partnered with M.A.A.M. to raise support for the cause. "The squad will be wearing pink T-shirts Oct. 17-21 and will be selling shirts to help support victims and their families," according to the Fire Department's October newsletter. The squad is encouraged to use these shirts as a conversation starter with the public in order to gain an avenue to encourage others to get preventative screenings.

"We were able to sell over 400 shirts and donate approximately $2,000 to the fund," Fire Chief Steven B. Ferguson said in the newsletter.

When asked why the Fire Department wanted to work to support the cause, Captain Jonathan Wright responded, "Take many, we have seen people dear to our heart suffer from this terrible cancer which is a huge motivator for us."

Historic businesses such as Radiology Consultants, Bee Line Tow ing, Southern Air and High Peak Sportswear have partnered with the Fire Department to support the cause.

Read the rest of the story online at www.libertychampion.com

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The motto of Liberty University is "train up a child in the way He has chosen, and when he is old he will not depart from it, nor turn away from His commandments." The university is committed to the education of students in a Christ-centered environment, preparing them for service in various fields.

COUNCIL continued from A1

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Liberty Champion/3

Liberty alumns get man off of death row

Liberty University dean listens to court appeal, tells bondman to stay

COUNCIL, RESPONSIBILITIES — A new polling location will be on place on Liberty's campus by the Presidential Primary election in March 2012.

POLLING continued from A1

“Liberty alumns get man off of death row

Mississippi man released on time served with the help of local lawyer

Katherine Lacaze

The Senate's confirmation of the nomination of lawyer Thomas E. Golding to serve as the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, by the most votes of a Congress in recent years, is a testament to the importance of judicial nominations.

One of the lawyers who helped to secure the release of the man from death row was Susan Sullivan, a graduate assistant at Liberty University. Sullivan went to work on the case after hearing about the situation and believed that the man was wrongly convicted.

“It’s very, very rare to have a capital murder conviction that gets reversed and the person's release from prison in a situation like this,” Sullivan said.

“Until the very end, he maintained his innocence,” Sullivan said.

The man was convicted of the murder of an off-duty police officer in 2001, and Sullivan, along with several other legal professionals, worked tirelessly to overturn his conviction.

On February 11, 2011, Sullivan and her team presented their case to the Mississippi Court of Appeals, who overturned the original conviction and sentence and remanded the case for a new trial. After that, the case went up to the Mississippi Supreme Court, who agreed with the Court of Appeals.

The Supreme Court then vacated the conviction and sentence and remanded the case for a new trial. The case was finally heard by the Mississippi Supreme Court, who overturned the conviction and sentence on November 9, 2011.

The man was released on time served on December 26, 2011, and Sullivan said that the family was relieved and grateful for the legal team's efforts.

“I think the family was really happy with the outcome,” Sullivan said.

Sullivan, along with several other legal professionals, worked tirelessly to overturn the man's conviction and secure his release from prison. The case was a testament to the importance of judicial nominations and the role that lawyers play in securing justice for their clients.

The Senate's confirmation of Golding is a step in the right direction, as it ensures that the country has competent and qualified judges who can uphold the principles of justice and fairness in our legal system.

According to Sullivan, the man's release was a victory for justice and a testament to the importance of judicial nominations.

“Justice has been served,” Sullivan said.

The man's release on time served is a reminder of the importance of judicial nominations and the role that lawyers play in securing justice for their clients. The Senate's confirmation of Golding is a step in the right direction, as it ensures that the country has competent and qualified judges who can uphold the principles of justice and fairness in our legal system.

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LU continues to benefit from generous alumni donors

Alumni return to give back after receiving so much
Rachel Dees

As Liberty grows up to celebrate the school's 50th Anniversary, just admit me to the list of alumni who are gathered together to acknowledge the growth that each alumni donor has brought to its alma mater. It is a time to become reacquainted with old friends and family, despite scoring over all of the enemies of the day, become a family.

Throughout the four decades of the school's existence, students and alumni alike have observed the university's growth — an accomplishment that has been bolstered by the donations of its alumni. Although Liberty University is financially prosperous now, holding its own without the aid of others for the first time, alumni donations are still very important.

In 2007, college donations increased over previous years, according to an article in USA Today. The article said that colleges had raised a total of $28 billion in donations. However, of that $28 billion, only 30 percent of the total funding came directly from college alumni.

Liberty uses donations in many ways, from scholarships for students to the funding of new facilities on campus. No matter how big the school gets, it will always need the aid of others to help it succeed. The word donations does not just mean financial donations either. There are lists of ways for former students to give back to Liberty.

"Liberty has amazing professors who do not get enough credit for what they do. They challenged me in so many different ways and helped inspire me to be a great teacher," 2001 alumna Beth Thompson said. She continued that while she cannot give back financially at the moment, she contributes in a different way by volunteering with the History Honors Society. She helps the organization at Liberty throughout the year, giving her time and helping out with events. Alumni For Liberty (AFL) says it helps "mentor students interested in careers that advance Liberty, provide moral and financial support for students, and provide an overarching support network to connect alumni and students with one another."

Liberty provides another outlet for alumni to help connect students and alumni, called Alumni Meeting Relations (ARM). ARM is a division of the Alumni Relations Office. The program works to connect established alumni with current undergraduate students to counsel the rising graduates as they prepare for entering the workforce. Alumni can offer advice about their experience with various jobs, tips for resumes and anything else that can benefit these students getting ready to enter the professional world," according to the alumni page on the Liberty website.

In short, there are many ways students can give back to Liberty. Some alumni donate financially, others donate their time. What matters, though, is that alumni are nursing professors. They are nursing involved with Liberty and helping 4,000 new each year, which is why we say "thank you."

Dees is an opinion writer.

FROM THE DESK

By Ashley Rollins

Ring by spring. At Liberty, we all know the phrase.

Well, last Thursday I got my ring — and yes, I am too excited to keep this a secret. My ring arrived in the mail, just a simple band with my initials. My dad had asked for my permission to order it, so I sent him a yes. Of course! I'm excited to wear it now that my senior year is ending.

Well, I met Kevin McAlpin during leadership week at Liberty. We both served as prayer leaders. Don't get me wrong; I'm not a prayer leader per se, but I can be found praying with people in the Student Union. It is a unique place. It is a place where thousands of Christians who desire to be the best that they can be in their given field together to hear and grow not only academically but spiritually as well.

It is not because of some civic duty to have Liberty students more and produce future Liberty students (which is not about how much but people are encouraged to embrace the Lord's plan). It is not that marriage is push or shamed down people's throats, but that the holy union desired by God is encouraged to be walked out in the Lord's time with another God fearing individual. The reason Liberty seems to be a breeding ground for such activities is because they have managed to bring 12,000 like-minded young adults together to get married after the same goal. It is nothing short of a goal that some — actually most — find a helper to run with them.

My best advice to all those who, like I am, are critical of the unions that are here at Liberty is to be liberal with such advice. ‘They’re not as long as two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate,' Matthew 19:6.

Future McAlpin
LIFE ON HOLD — Nate and Jaime-Lynne Hertzog were married Aug. 7, just in time for Nate to leave for a year in Afghanistan.

Pfc. Nate Hertzog: first deployment overseas

Liberty University student to his spend senior year in Afghanistan

Omar Adams
Oct. 11, 2011

According to Hertzog, soldiers often say MP stands for “multi-purpose” because they provide many different responsibilities. MPs provide security, conduct Protective Service Details where they protect important persons such as generals and high-ranking officials, serve as prison guards and provide other combat support. Hertzog and they train in both security and law enforcement officers.

“MPs can do pretty much anything,” Hertzog said. “We have to be certified in OC spray, the baton and tasers, so things you see your normal police officer train on, we do as well.”

The deployment will be Hertzog’s first tour of service since enlisting in December 2009, and while he has trained for it, he is not quite sure what to expect.

“You always have that fear aspect of what’s going to happen while I’m over there,” he said. “It is going to be really rough! It is going to be an extreme assignment — if there is such a thing. How hard is it going to be to bring away from my family and my wife? But you have to remind yourself you have been trained to handle what you’re going into and you have the peace that only God can provide.”

Planning to make the best of his time in Afghanistan, Hertzog plans to continue with classes on Liberty Online, depending on the “operational tempo” — the number of hours he will have to work every day. He hopes to return with only a couple classes left, so he can graduate soon with a major in criminal justice and a minor in psychology.

Members of the Student Veterans Group on campus, especially the group’s president, Master Cpl. Jared Delello, have encouraged Hertzog to start a Bible study when he’s stationed.

“One of the things Jared and some of the other Christians who are combat veterans have encouraged me to do, which has challenged me, is to start a Bible study when I’m over there,” Hertzog said. “I’m going to spread the Gospel, be an example in that environment and to minister to the people over there.”

Hertzog said the Army provides further training in-country to prepare soldiers for interacting with the people and culture of the area. Working with the Student Veterans Group has also helped Hertzog prepare for deployment. Members of the group have given him tips such as what to look out for and what to do before he leaves.

“The veterans group has tried to make sure that I’m doing ok and has been supportive and encouraging,” he said. “Also, just knowing what Liberty University and Students Behind Our Soldiers does by sending care packages raises your morale.”

Hertzog and his wife, Jaime-Lynne, were married in August before he left for a month of training, and soon he will be fighting overseas for the next year.

“Many people want to remember that ‘families also serve.’ They now have to carry all the burdens that their spouse did while (the spouse is) off during their own challenges being deployed,” Hertzog said. “I think people need to remember the military and their families in their prayers, support them and show them Christian love any way they can.”

Adams is the web editor.
**HEALTH & WELLNESS**

**SUPER PARENTS** — Reality parents Jim Bob and Michelle Duggar spoke to a packed Vince Center during consecration, challenging students to follow God’s lead as they face life’s challenges.

**Duggars visit campus, challenge students**

TLC’s famous couple speak on living out their faith with “19 Kids and Counting”

Shelene Jennings

**Doc’s Diner makes changes, offers more**

**GREAT EATS** — With new menu items and deals, Doc’s is moving to satisfy the ever-changing student tastes.

**Doc’s Diner manager Tabitha Terry said.** anyone can pick off this burning bungee without a drink will have their picture put up with the other conquerors on “The Wall of Fame,” she said. Doc’s Diner changes the weight can be as little as the desired levels of exercise. “We keep the main things that sell well, but here we try to incorporate different things and see what the students like,” Terry said. The changes of Doc’s Diner include more changes to the menu. Walks full of picture and Jerry will see常 membemians have now been modernized with newsstand playing news, sports and Monday night football, according to the University’s Campus Fast, located on Liberty’s campus.

The college student has many enemies. Parking spots, Wednesday classes, and jammed printers make it high on a list of things to stress, but those who are vital to successful weight loss, it is also suggested that weight lifting be added to the exercise regimen regularly.

According to Liz Esser, writer for Women’s Health, lifting weights gives you a metabolic spike for an hour after a workout because your body is trying hard to recover the muscle you just burned.

Junior Brooke Hartwell, who is a freshman herself, has been committed to maintaining a healthy body during her college years and can attest to the calorie-burning results seen from choosing to lift weights.

Women’s Health also suggests asking your pharmacist for weekly workouts. This form of exercise uses multiple muscle groups to perform quick, explosive moves such as running and jumping to accentuate several parts for overall health. "Since I have started implementing phy- sical activity into my workout, I have seen the biggest difference on the scale," junior Anni Brown said.

Although attempting to lose any amount of weight is difficult, especially when you’re working the key to achieving weight loss is to want to do something new and different scales as you plan for your workouts. The pleasure of walking the extra mile might make you appear on the scale will outweigh any pain experienced at the gym.

Brown is a feature reporter.

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Celebrate like a Canadian
International Student Center holds Canadian Thanksgiving Dinner

Abby Koppenhaver
abkoppenhaver@liberty.edu

Thanksgiving in Canada? For the Canadian population or Library, this is the norm. Just over 100 Canadian students gathered in the Grand Lobby of DeMoss Tuesday, Oct. 4 to celebrate their home country’s Thanksgiving, which falls on Oct. 10.

Associate Director of Admissions and Canadian Academic Counselor Norman Bloomfield was one of the people overseeing the event. “I like to keep an eye on them while they’re here,” Bloomfield said of the Canadian students. A Canadian welfare, originally from London, Ontario, Bloomfield likes to make sure the Canadian students are transitioning well and getting along at Liberty.

“I kind of feel that I’m Canadian and work with the Canadians,” Bloomfield said.

Canadian Thanksgiving is an event that has been celebrated at Liberty for about 10 years now. This year’s holiday falls on Oct. 10, reserve for giving thanks at the end of the harvest season which takes place about a month earlier in Canada than in America.

“Canadian Thanksgiving is at a different time than American Thanksgiving, so we like to give them a little taste of home,” Bloomfield said.

The event serves as more than just a dinner for students, however. “It’s an opportunity for them to celebrate without their families because they are away from home, but it’s also an excellent opportunity for freshmen to be able to meet the current Canadian students we have here,” Bloomfield said.

Freshman Brandon Brown is a 13-hour drive from his home in Toronto. He enjoyed the chance to come out and meet with his fellow Canadians, but admitted that Thanksgiving in Canada was regarded much differently than Thanksgiving in America.

“Americans are really serious about their Thanksgiving. For us it’s just a night to get together,” Brown said.

Junior Wilson is a junior from Richmond Hill, Ontario and has attended the event for the past couple of years.

“If I was at home I would be celebrating with my family but since the fall break is really short, a lot of people don’t get to go home,” Wilson said.

Although the origins of Canadian Thanksgiving are different than American Thanksgiving, the two holidays are celebrated in similar fashion, making it hard for some to distinguish the slight difference.

“It’s kind of fits that I’m Canadian and experienced Thanksgiving in Canada was regarded much differently than Thanksgiving in America. “American are really serious about their Thanksgiving. For us it’s just a night to get together,” Brown said.

While Wilson is a junior from Richmond Hill, Ontario and has attended the event for the past couple of years.

“If I was at home I would be celebrating with my family but since the fall break is really short, a lot of people don’t get to go home,” Wilson said.

Although the origins of Canadian Thanksgiving are different than American Thanksgiving, the two holidays are celebrated in similar fashion, making it hard for some to distinguish the slight difference.

“Let’s not forget that Thanksgiving was a universal thing.”

Canadian Thanksgiving can be traced back to 1578, when Martin Frobisher, a British explorer, was wrong for a northern passage to the Orient. His search failed, but he settled in Northern America where he held a ceremony giving thanks for the survival of his voyage. This celebration became the first recorded Canadian Thanksgiving, which is now a celebration of the end of harvest season.

Students were also given tickets to participate in a drawing for a chance to win prizes, which included individual bags of Tim Hortons coffee (a Canadian coffee favorite) and T-shirts. Students also participated in trivia and finished the night with a group picture and prayer.

Koppenhaver is a feature reporter.

PASS THE TURKEY — Canadian students passed their plates with all the trimmings as they fellowshipped with other students in DeMoss’s Grand Lobby, Oct. 4.

Abby Koppenhaver is a feature reporter.
Fantasy 4-1-1, Here are tips for week six
As mid-season approaches, young talents becoming potential threats for teams

Andrew Woolfolk
worldofcollegefootball.com

What a year it has been so far. What's this? The season is unrecognizable? What's that? The Cats are out of playoff contention already? James Harrison hasn't been fixed yet?

For fantasy owners, it seems theoughest
test of a scoreboard for the football at the bottom of the field trying to pick up your prior placeholders of scorers.

For the upcoming weeks, stay away with your team. Don't go off of the deep end and turn your roster just because you beat your opponent by a point of two. Also, be wise, you should be able to somehow predict the upcoming suc-
cess for most of the teams in the league. Players on playoff caliber teams are the best to have in the midseason, lying it all out on the line to pull ahead of the competition early. It's up to you to pull the strings of your team just right, find the targets, and get the ball to the receiver. Andrew Woolfolk expected to miss a few games, more targets could come in.

Start 'Em
Quarterback Josh Freeman: Freeman keeps playing better every week, and he'll be throwing a lot in a highly anticipated divisional matchup versus the Saints.
Wide Receiver — Sandy Nelson: Nelson just signed a new three-year contract extension. This game could be all yours who decides to throw the ball to him so we can't keep him off.
Running Back — Michael Turner: Turner faces a terrible Carolina run defense, and the Falcons should be in scoring range quite often.
Tight End — Owen Daniels: With receiver Andre Johnson expected to miss a few games, more targets could come in.

Daniele's way.

Barber also believes the res-
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tion to the baseball program. Barber believes the new structure will allow how much the university invests into the athletic program.

When our recruits, stu-
dent fans and visitors walk into this facility, they will know we care about fulfilling the dreams of competing at the highest level of Division I athletics. This will produce a better product in every way,” Barber said.

The Flames have posted 29 winning seasons inside Worthington Stadium, origi-
nally named after professional player and former Lib-
yety coach Al Worthington.

Worthington has since been inducted into the Liberty Hall of Fame (class of 2010) for his accomplishments, profession-
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Worthington Stadium went through a lot of remodeling throughout the previous years.

In 2008, Liberty baseball was able to play its first home night game against Coastal Carolina. Improved bullpens were constructed the following season in 2009 and in 2011. Liberty added the latest score board and video board, as well as several quality features such as a message center, radar gun and a five-foot high clock.

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Lastly, the university has emphasized its club sports also, allowing more athletes to participate in athletics and compete with other schools. However, the new additions to the baseball stadium will mark the best opportunity yet for the athletics program, according to Barber.

Athletes can be a great tool for building a university, and these sports are in dire need of new facilities. We feel very blessed that we have the op-
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Keeney is a sports writer.
You can take the professor out of football, but you can’t take football out of the professor.

From City Stadium to Williams

Dr. Rob Van Engen has seen Liberty football explode.

Julie Gonzalez
jgonzalez@liberty.edu

You have witnessed multiple changes in the football program since 1980. The players are better and bigger athletes. When I played, NCAA rules were still evolving. The screening of players to make sure they are compliant is very intense,” Van Engen said. “The football team was housed in locker rooms on an island in the middle of the James River. This island also housed students in dormitories. We practiced in the middle of these buildings. Our weight room was a transformed garage as it appeared to me. The program now has excellent facilities which I believe enhance the campus.

Flames fans no longer have to travel to City Stadium to support the team. The Liberty Flames football team has called Williams Stadium home since its completion in October 1989.

“Williams Stadium is an incredible recruiting tool, plus a fantastic place to play. The environment really provides a big game feel. With the luxury boxes and the club level seating, the fans can experience the thrill of college football. The players benefit by having a field that is not used by other teams, like City Stadium was. The surface is always the same even though weather changes. That is an advantage,” Van Engen said.

Football was not only a sport for Van Engen, it was a place of spiritual growth.

“My position coach was Kim Graham, and he offered devotions and guidance regularly. Bob Guetterman was a tight end on our team and a spiritual leader for our position. He often shared times of devotion and gave constant encouragement. These moments helped to strengthen my spiritual walk,” Van Engen said.

Being on the football team was a memorable part of Van Engen’s college experience at Liberty.

“My favorite personal football memory was playing against the University of North Carolina JV football team. The LU coaches created a varsity and a JV team my freshman year and our JV team played at UNC Chapel Hill in their stadium. It was practically empty but it was a fun experience. I got a chance to return kicks,” Van Engen said.

Van Engen currently serves as the Assistant Director of Christian/Community Service and Assistant Professor of Contemporary Issues.

Gonzalez is a sports reporter.
Push for Mid-Majors

Flames to compete in 2012 Sears BracketBusters

Tyler Eacho

The Liberty men's basketball team has been chosen by ESPN as a participant in the 2012 Sears BracketBusters, taking place on the weekend of Feb. 17-19.

The Flames, who are making their second straight appearance in the series, and fourth in program history, will be joining 141 other Division I participants in what will be the largest field for the event since its inception in 2001.

BracketBusters is important for smaller programs like Liberty, with six appearances has the most BracketBusters appearances four out of the last five years. Winthrop, who was required to schedule a return date with Iona for the 2011 Sears BracketBusters, game, was not able to host a game because of its regular season schedule.

Each team that hosts a Sears BracketBusters game will be joining 141 other Division I participants in what will be the largest field for the event since its inception in 2001.

"We are looking forward to playing in this year's BracketBusters match-up," Liberty head men's basketball coach Dale Larrer said. "It is a national event with great exposure for our team. We are honored to be back in the series."

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I n January 1971, Dr. Jerry Falwell announced to his congregation at Thomas Road Baptist Church what seemed to be an impossible dream. Because of the dark spiritual condition of the world, he felt a sacred obligation to build a distinctively Christian, world-class university where young people would receive a quality education in a Christian environment. These young people could then go out in all areas of life and impact their world for Jesus Christ.

Many just muttered and shook their heads. But in the fall of 1971, Dr. Falwell's dream became a reality Lynchburg Baptist College officially opened with 154 students. The entire staff consisted of four full-time faculty members and several unpaid part-time faculty members. Classes were held in Thomas Road Baptist Church facilities.

And so began a tremendous journey of faith. It seemed, at times, in those early days that the vision was too great, that failure seemed imminent. But no matter what the setbacks, Jerry Falwell Sr. refused to doubt.

Forty years have gone by since Lynchburg Baptist College opened its doors. What has happened in those years can be described as nothing less than miraculous.

Today Liberty is a bastion of Christian excellence for college students from around the world. Her student body, representing all 50 states, as well as more than 52 nations, makes Liberty University the most prominent Christian university in the world.

More than 6,000 acres on Liberty Mountain are the home of 64 classrooms and dormitories. DeMoss grew from a one-story building to a four-story, state-of-the-art learning center and library. The original four classroom buildings have been updated and the Towns alumni Hall was added and the library. The original four classroom buildings have been updated and the Towns alumni Hall was added and the library. The original four classroom buildings have been updated and the Towns alumni Hall was added and the library. The original four classroom buildings have been updated and the Towns alumni Hall was added and the library. The original four classroom buildings have been updated and the Towns alumni Hall was added and the library.

As Liberty University celebrates its 40th anniversary, the school celebrates not only a milestone, but a year of new beginnings as the reimagining of campus goes underway.

When founder Jerry Falwell Sr. started Liberty in 1971, he had a vision for a world-class school, but due to a lack of resources, his vision was too ambitious.

In the 1970s and 80s, the goal was to build affordable yet function- al buildings that could be replaced when the school was financially able to do so,” Chancellor Jerry Falwell Jr. said.

Forty years later, Jerry Falwell Jr. is able to fulfill the dream his father had for the campus and transform the campus into one of world-class proportions.

The transformation began with the renovation of the fourth floor of DeMoss Hall to house offices and classrooms. More building additions and renovations have turned the renovation of campus into a five-year plan. The main additions include a film school, medical school, below ground basketball practice facilities, a wheelchair tunnel, a roof top patio on DeMoss, a small lake, campus east instrument complex, new academic buildings, new dorms and a free-standing library.

As the campus underwent a face lift, students and faculty had to adjust to the new changes. When students returned for the fall 2011 semester, they realized that most buildings come, according to Jerry Falwell Jr.

"We are not creating a pedestrian campus," Jerry Falwell Jr. said. "You're parking spaces near DeMoss Hall will be eliminated... As we grow though, by necessity, our parking and transit habits will have to change. The campus will be more pedestrian-friendly but is not becoming a pedestrian campus."

The new free-standing library is something that Jerry Falwell Jr. also thinks is going to be a huge hit.

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According to Jerry Falwell Jr., his father loved Jeffersonian architecture and insisted on using Jeffersonian architecture on the

ANNIVERSARY — Over the past 40 years Liberty has grown and developed while working to maintain the principles and ideals valued by its founder, Jerry Falwell Sr.

**Look back**

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Since 1971, "mountains" have seemed to move at the hands of Dr. Jerry Falwell Sr. to become a reality. One of Falwell's many goals was for Liberty to offer academic quality in all professions. Now, 40 years later, that dream to offer quality academic programs leading to many different professions seems complete.

Liberty began modestly with only 134 students, a dozen faculty members, and very few resources. However, a landmark was reached in 1980 when Liberty received accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Four years later, Liberty received university status.

"Moving from college status to university status literally meant that the programs of study we could offer, and began to offer, were far more numerous than before," Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Dr. Ronald Heady said.

Today, Liberty offers more than 100 undergraduate degree programs. In 1989, the online program was established providing students around the world with a quality Christian-based education.

"Liberty has always been recognized for its top-ranked Law School and Delaware Steam, as well as the new Tower Theater, which opened last year," junior Classic Sweetsen said. "Change is not new here at Liberty. Last year's introduction of a rigorous attendance policy was one of many changes. Another change has been an increase in the classroom size of general education courses. While some students, such as Amy Dyalenguin, do not seem to notice, her roommate Courtney Adams does. "It's hard to learn in big classes," Adams said.

"Our goal is for Liberty University to become known as a world-class teaching university," - GODWIN

Dean of College of General Studies and Associate Professor of English Emily Heady said it has been an adjustment, but she enjoys the energy of a large class. "Liberty has been great about giving us the help we need. In our 200-level survey, for instance, we now have a second faculty member for each class, and that person's sole responsibility is to interact with students' written work," Heady said. "As for this year, exciting new academic changes are already in progress. A significant change is the addition of a College of General Studies. "No matter what their SAT or ACT score said about their high school education, there is a wide variety of academic weaknesses that the typical high school student brings to college. So rather than just complain about it, we created a College of General Studies, and a team of teachers and curriculum, to better repair or strengthen those weaknesses that students bring to their university experience," Godwin said.

One of the strengths of the College of General Studies is the new mathemporium opening in spring 2012. Students can come for individualized instruction from professors and graduate assistants. Theemporium will be located in Green Hall, in what used to be Room 150. The room will hold about 200 computer stations with advanced technology to help students who struggle with math. "Math was never my strongest subject," Adams said. "So having an entire room devoted to helping me excel will definitely be a place I will want to go." sophomore Hillary Bennett said.

Writing is also a weakness that freshmen students often have when entering college. For this reason, changes have also been made to give students more one-on-one assistance. "We've begun teaching some classes, such as ENGL 101, on the master-teacher model — a combination of big lectures and small breakout sections," Heady said. "Possibly the greatest academic announcement made this year is the plan to open a school of osteopathic medicine and a school of health science by fall 2013. Part of the funding for the new school was provided by a $12 million grant from the Virginia Tobacco Commission, making it the largest grant the university has ever received."

"There is a great deal to be grateful for and excited about at Liberty nowadays, but it is true, we are excited about the new school of health science and the prospect of having a medical college here at Liberty," Godwin said.

Moreover, Liberty is in the process of creating an internationally new library, a school of cinematic arts and trade courses to take along with one's undergraduate degree.

"Our goal is for Liberty University to become known as a world-class teaching university. And we want to continue the great strides already made in improving the teaching and learning here at Liberty," Godwin said.

While change is a necessary part of any university's aim to improve, Liberty continues to honor its mission of "training champions for Christ." The Christian worldview is unmistakably emphasized in all academic programs.

"That doesn't mean that we're afraid of the world or that we want to live in a bubble," Heady said. "We do all the same things that people do at other universities. We study the latest literary theory, we read the same books, we talk about the same topics. But here, we know what we're about. The purpose of our teaching — and our studying — is to seek truth, because if we can find truth, we've had an encounter with God." For more information, visit www.liberty.edu/aboutliberty. To learn more about the College of General Studies, email eqpillar@liberty.edu.

Roodling is a news reporter.
A heart for others: CSER ignites attitudes of service

Allison Cundiff
acundiff@liberty.edu

More than 5,400 Liberty students volunteered about 192,000 hours of service to the local community in Fall 2010, according to Darren Wu, Liberty’s Christian/Community Service coordinator. Last spring more than 5,700 students volunteered just shy of 132,000 hours, Wu said.

According to an economic study released in 2010, Liberty students, faculty and staff contributed 574,879 CSER hours in 2009. The study showed that the average student volunteered 4.3 hours each month, and that the monetary value of those hours (at minimum wage in 2009) would come to $4.9 million.

About 10 years ago, the requirement for graduation changed from 40 hours per semester to 20 hours per semester, Director of Christian/Community Service Dr. Lee Weider said. "For a long time, it was a minimum of three hours a week... over the years we recognized the diversity of our student body and the need for every single student to be doing something in a specific way for community service," Weider said.

Weider said when the hours-per-semester requirement was reduced to 20 hours, administration took into consideration students with many commitments (such as members of sports teams) or students with limited free time due to challenging courses to determine the average one-and-a-half-hour per week that are now required. Weider said he believes the benefits of participating in CSER for students are multi-faceted.

"Number one, it gives them an opportunity to use their gifts to evangelize — they're using their spiritual gifts to edify the body of Christ, or they can use those as a platform to lead someone to Christ," Weider said. "Second, it's an opportunity for them to gain experience, possibly in their field of study. So they're learning, especially if they choose a CSER in their field. And it also enhances their resume and can provide experience in their field."

There are three requirements that CSER sector opportunities must meet: students cannot get paid, cannot receive scholarships and cannot receive academic credit.

Although every student must fulfill their CSER requirements to graduate, many students, such as sophomore Jill O'Dell, go above and beyond the requirement to serve others. O'Dell recently volunteered with a group of 110 students on a five-day trip to Binghamton, N.Y. to help with disaster relief efforts after the town was damaged by Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. She spent the majority of her time clearing houses with severe water damage so the owners could rebuild. "It just sounded like a great opportunity to help, so I jumped on it," she said. "It was hard, nasty, dirty work — but it was a great experience. I heard about Hurricane Irene for one day when it happened and then it left my mind, but these people lost their homes. The house my group worked on, the water went all the way up to the ceiling so the walls collapsed. They lost everything."

Another opportunity for students to serve is coming up as Halloween gets closer — last year, Scaremare used nearly 250 volunteers, according to Kamilla Dening, who coordinates the use of CSER workers. As a result of that volunteer work, an estimated 3,000 people made professions of faith after visiting last year’s Scaremare, she said. Each year, the Volunteer of the Year Christian Service Award is presented to a student who demonstrates excellence in Christian service and ministry. Students are nominated by their supervisors at the organizations where they volunteer. For more information, visit www.liberty.edu/cser.

Cundiff is a feature reporter.
Connected

1971
Computers were unavailable for students.

1980s
Laptops and personal computers begin to appear on campus.

1990s
A random collection of classes began to use computers. By the end of the decade, five computer classrooms were constructed in the science hall.

2002
With the expansion of DeMoss, nine computer classrooms were placed on the second floor inside the ILRC.

2004
Expansion brought the number of computers to 111.

2008
The ILRC expanded on to the third floor of DeMoss. The number of ILRC-classrooms with computers increased to 15 and the total number of computers almost doubled to 904. Additional labs were also built for the new School of Engineering and Computational Science on the third floor, and other computer centers were located in specialized learning areas around campus.

2011
The number of computers in computer labs continues to increase. A larger emphasis is also being placed on students’ ability to use their own laptops. A massive web of unseen signals covering the campus. Over the past few years Liberty has been working constantly to give students the best wireless connection on campus possible. The work that goes on behind the scenes in order to keep the internet very often goes unnoticed unless there is a glitch.

In 2000, the campus switched over to Broadcom Encompass 4.0, a system that provides protection for students against potential computer viruses. This particular system is significantly less time consuming for students to use than Cisco Clean Access. Students only have to go through the steps to connect to the internet on a rare occasion as opposed to every time they need internet access.

Students are also able to log onto the network via guest mode, a park that allows temporary internet access without requiring the typical steps involved in the connection process.

The Integrated Learning Resource Center (ILRC) did not exist in the 70s and by the 80s a few students were bringing a new gadget called a laptop to school.

The 90s ushered in the computer lab and as buildings went up, rows of desk side cable runs to connect the computers to the world wide web. By 2006, Liberty met the increase in computer demand with a centralized computer lab and new wireless technology that created a massive web of unseen signals covering the campus.

The connection may vary in places such as these depending on the amount of users and the distance to the nearest access point.

The Information Technology department takes the time to review the number of users on each access point on a monthly basis. This allows the department to add or remove the access points based on supply and demand.

Zealand encourages students who are having difficulties with their connection or the internet to obtain a help ticket from the Information Technology Help Desk.

"The more they get that information out of our hands, the more we can take care of student needs," Zealand said. "We count on the students to help with that feedback."

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christian commitment

School prioritizes spiritual health

Allison Cundiff
acundiff@liberty.edu

Liberty University has been just as committed to providing its students with opportunities for spiritual growth as it has been to providing students a quality education in a Christian environment. As the university has grown, it has maintained the spiritual foundation it was started with through traditions unique to Liberty such asconvision, student discipleship, school-sponsored mission trips and special emphasis weeks each semester.

One of the many factors that has made Liberty’s commitment to a Christian environment possible is student leadership. When new students arrive at their residence halls, there are already leaders in place on each hall to help students—two resident assistants, two spiritual life directors and 10 prayer leaders.

“Student leadership is so vital because conviction, church and even the classmates have a spiritual emphasis, but it’s very hard to get down to the individual student—student leadership allows the chance to connect and be personally directed,” said someone he knows them and mentors and mobilizes them,” Associate Director of Prayer Leaders and Discipleship Pastor Christ Deitch said.

Hall meetings are held on each hall Tuesday nights to keep students up to date on campus announcements and events. After hall meetings, optional prayer groups are offered to give students a chance to fellowship, study the Bible and share prayer requests.

STUDENT MENTORING — Liberty University continues to emphasize Christian values in and out of the classroom.

“It’s really unique, it separates us from other schools,” said senior Sarah Wilk, who served as a prayer leader for three years. “We’ve all got the opportunity to be ministered to and be disciple. Even though I was supposed to be ministering to the other girls (in prayer groups it became a blessing to me and it was a humbling experience as well, watching how the Lord uses us in each other’s lives. I got to know other girls that I wouldn’t necessarily have gotten to know.”

Another was Liberty has shared true to its mission is through only hiring faculty members who share the beliefs the university was founded on.

“The university has maintained the Christian worldview in the classroom because of the commitment to only hiring those who are authentically saved and committed to the biblical worldview,” Dean of Students Dr. Keith Anderson said. “The professors are challenged to continue to present their discipline of study in a Christocentric format. I believe in the intransigency of the administration and senior leadership to remain faithful to our spiritual foundation.

Although the commitment has remained the same, several things have changed over the years to accommodate the growing student population’s needs and busy schedules.

Prayer groups used to be mandatory five nights a week, as were multiple hall meetings, Deitch said, and church attendance was required. Although hall meetings and convocation are still mandatory, prayer groups and church attendance are now optional.

“We made it optional because we didn’t want to be legalistic,” Deitch said. “We made it voluntary and that way students have a choice whether they want to go. I think one of the things Dr. Falwell said very much a stickler about was that conversation would happen three times a week and that we would never get rid of it. It was and is a time to bring the university together and to remind them of our common mission and our common goal.”

Cundiff is a feature reporter. 

athletic accomplishment

Flames’ honorable legacy continues on with NCAA

Kyle Harvey
kharvey@liberty.edu

Life on Life

Deep inside the Football Operations Center there is a man in an office that, like Liberty University’s founder Jerry Falwell Sr., has a vision for Liberty athletes.

Dr. Ed Gomes is the Director of the Spiritual Development program for the football team and as the spiritual leader of Liberty’s football program, he plays a pivotal role in the spiritual lives and conditions of the athletes, coaches, trainers and managers of the team.

“Just because a school is in Christian name, it doesn’t mean that they are committed to living the Biblical mandate in the Scriptures,” Gomes said.

Gomes practices servant leadership, assisting all members of the program in any way he can. He leads weekly Bible studies, meets weekly with players for accountability and discipleship and is a prayer warrior for the entire football team.

“We have a biblical model based on Luke 2:52, and what that verse says is, ‘Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature and in favor with God and man’,” Gomes said.

Bearing Luke 2:52 in mind, Gomes has designed a system called the Whole Person Development Model for use in training football players to be champions not only of the Big South but for Jesus Christ.

“One of the beauty of that verse verse there are four areas that we give attention to within our athletic program. The first has to do with academics... The second piece of this is athletics... the next area is socially—the fourth area is to develop the spiritual aspect of the student athlete’s life.”

“Jesus built into the three, he built into the 13, he built into the 70. One of the ways that we are going to impact our whole team is by you making your position your ministry. Let’s go out with each other, let’s pray for each other and let’s pray for the guys in our position,” Gomes said.

“Let’s live out our relationship with God in that position and let God use us,” Gomes said.

Gomes intentionally places great significance on accountability and the importance of men working through life together, building up another’s faith.

“The experience the student athletes gain now will be invaluable after Liberty,” Gomes said.

“It’s really life on life. The whole goal of this life on life is to when they graduate and they start working at some newspaper or wherever they go, they’ve practiced what they’re going to do when they start the job. You’re going to start looking for people that have the same values and interests that you have and then you’re going to start praying with that person and see how God wants us to use you to impact those people you’re with. That’s how discipleship works,” Gomes said.

Even considering the growth of the athletics program at Liberty in recent years, Gomes is confident that the system in place will secure Liberty’s reputation as a program which competes with integrity and sportsmanship while fulfilling the name of Jesus.

“Sometimes people ask me, ‘Hey, the bigger the school gets you must be something to compromise with this or that.” When I was here in the early 1970s there were guys in the high interest group, there were guys in the same interest group and there were guys who didn’t care in the recreation group,” Gomes said. “It’s the same. What I’ve got to do is pay attention to where these guys are at and then help them win in three or four areas.”

See ATHLETICS, B7

Wanna know more? Check out www.libertychampion.com

FAN THE FLAMES — Over the past four decades, the Flames have become a dominant presence in world of college athletics.
student life opportunities

Liberty culture continues to grow in diversity

Devon Francis

Rich, adjective: having high quality; magnificently impressive. The Merriam-Webster website must have had student life at Liberty University in mind when defining this term.

Snowflex, open six nights, snowball fighting, concerts, movie nights, ice fishing and club sports, such as archery and racquetball, are just a few of the many activities offered to Liberty students looking to have a good time outside of the classroom.

Dean of Students Keith Anderson said that all of the recreational options at Liberty are above par because they aid in the development of every student in mind, body and spirit.

He also credited Liberty’s state of the art facilities with setting the college apart from the competition.

“Liberty University is tied to the commitment of our chancellor and founder who more than once proclaimed, ‘If it’s Christian, it ought to be better,’” Anderson said.

He also added that Liberty’s current “available capital to fund recreation” has given the university the freedom to offer more events today than when the university first opened.

Although Promotions Manager for Student Activities Stephanie Ward believes that Liberty has always excelled in the area of student life, she said that doing background research on what other colleges are currently offering and listening to student feedback gathered from surveys and social media posts have helped the university better itself over the past 10 years.

“We don’t create events randomly or just for the sake of having them. We are dedicated to providing what students want and ask for,” Ward said. “We want to fit the style and needs of people today. This allows us to host a variety of events with an actual purpose behind them. Once student suggestions are taken into account, Student Activities works to make certain each event idea that’s generated and accomplished has main goals create community within the student body and culturally challenge students. “We want to establish communication through shared experiences,” Ward said. “We strive to give students a home away from home, to cater to them and provide diversity. And everything is right at their fingertips at a low cost.”

Senior Gregory Smith, who transferred to Liberty in 2010, said that he has definitely benefited from the school’s clear dedication to student life.

“Student life at Liberty engages students with different events outside of class more than the last college I was at, and most importantly, Liberty strives to keep Christ as the head of the student body in all things,” Smith said.

Francis is a news reporter.
Town's family moves to campus peak
Co-founder Dr. Elmer Towns and family’s new address puts them atop the mountain

Jessica Rovvell  jovell@liberty.edu

Considering the recent explosion of construction projects at Liberty's campus, it comes as no surprise that one of the school's founders, Dr. Elmer Towns, has joined in on the building trend.

''Dr. Towns and his wife recently moved into their newly constructed home, which was completed in August 2011. The home, which took nearly seven months to complete, is located off of Cardinal's Mountain Road at an expansive view of the City of Lynchburg. "The feedback has been positive," Construction Coordinator Alan Askew said.

"They are very happy, sincerely appreciative and have a chance to work with it. It was great to be part of something that honors Dr. Towns work for Liberty University," he said.

We worked with Dr. and Mrs. Towns during the planning, design, worked with them on the site, brought unique ideas to the site, and monitored construction progress and budget," Askew added.

"Dr. Towns and his family's new address puts them atop the mountain," Gomes said.

"No matter how big we get, that never changes," Gomes said.

Athletic Director Jeff Barber also expressed gratitude for the support Liberty has received from the community.

"We set records in grade point average longer than we have ever had before. Also, we became only the 13th NCAA Division I school to receive academic certification by the N4A. "This is a great honor for our program," Barber said.

"We worked with Dr. and Mrs. Towns during the planning, design, worked with them on the site, and monitored construction progress and budget," Askew said.

"They did a phenomenal job that we're very pleased of and I enjoyed working with them," he said. The project went very smoothly.

Overall, the new Towns' home is an investment for both Towns and Liberty University.

The university will remain ownership of the home but will make the home available for Dr. Towns' use for the rest of his life, according to Chancellor Jerry Falwell Jr.  

Rovvell is a news reporter.

The staff that runs the website is also responsible for producing the various other publications, such as the official football media guide. In 2008, Liberty's media guide won the title of best in the country at the Football Championship Subdivision level, Wetmore said.

"Our goals obviously are to fulfill Jerry Falwell's vision of playing at the best level as a top 25 division one program. Jerry Falwell wants us to work like we're in the Big South but work like we are already at that advanced level. We're charged to work above our conference level," Wetmore said.

Looking to the future, Wetmore hinted at the coming of a Liberty athletics app. Presently, Liberty is able to offer the new LibertyU app through Blackboard. Blackboard's app is a basic template that any school that uses Blackboard has access to.

"Liberty, however, would like to offer a more specialized app specific to Liberty, "Wetmore said.

"It does our great service out there but the same time we would like to offer an app to people to try to develop our own business application. That's really where the future of things is. As technology grows and phones grow, we will certainly try to keep up with where technology is going," Wetmore said.

Harvey is a sports reporter.

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From Movies 10 - Behind Hardee's
Through the ages

The story of Liberty University's first 40 years

Ashley Rollinger
ashleyrollinger@liberty.edu

Over the past four decades, Liberty University has grown exponentially and with it growth, new opportunities have been brought to students and alumni alike. Founded in 1971 by Dr. Jerry Falwell as Lynchburg Baptist College, Liberty was always part of a bigger plan according to Liberty University Chancellor Jerry Falwell Jr.

"His, Dr. Falwell Sr.'s vision for Liberty was a distinctive Christian university where every faculty member was a committed Christian, where the fundamentals of the Christian faith were never compromised and where the code of conduct encouraged behavior that is in keeping with Biblical morality," Jerry Falwell Jr. said.

While Liberty has remained focused on this vision, the school has undergone many changes, both extracurricular and academic. One of these changes was most necessary when God changed the direction of his career.
AGES continued from 17

body has grown from 154 students to a graduating class of 10,390 and a student body numbering more than 60,000.

With the growth of the student body many changes have occurred in the administrative realm, a student recreation. The university became a student body numbering more than 154 students, but there were also changes within the administration. Students have a lot of access to those of other large universities, to those of other large universities, both on and outside the campus.

The school's commitment to Christian principles and character are factors that go on to impact students long after they leave, Jordan said.

The key to all of this is staying relevant, Butler said.

"Particularly professor (Dr.) Bill Graham, our guest speaker this year attended another graduation ceremony to its students and alumni, Butler said.

"When I was a student) there was no Jerr-} Falwell Sr.," Butt- er said. "There was no Dan Musser. Those were totally different days."

The biggest difference is that there is no Jerry Falwell Sr.," Butler said. "The university is moving forward in a bigger direction."

The place looks totally different, Jordan said. "LU's campus facilities," he said. "The university is moving forward in a big way."'

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It's a family reunion for students, staff, faculty and graduates. It usually involves a football game, a parade, a bonfire, lots of food and laughter. According to the Associated press, Baylor University had the first homecoming celebration in 1909 and The University of Missouri was credited with having the first homecoming alumni game in 1911. Liberty affiliates, past and present, gather together at the school to commemorate its history and celebrate its future during the university's 40th anniversary.

Danielle Dewitt - Senior
Homecoming gives me a sense of tradition since my family went to Liberty.

Jesse Saunders - Senior
Homecoming is a weekend football game. The campus is very energetic and it creates a great atmosphere to be in.

Alicia Whitecavage - Senior
I love getting free stuff at the parade.

Chris Summers - Senior
Me being on the football team means we have to make sure we are at our best and to make homecoming as joyful as possible by getting that win and representing this university the right way.

Walt Aikens - Junior
Homecoming means tradition.

Sir Chauncy Holloway - Junior
It means a lot to me as an athlete.

Chelsea DeWolf - Sophomore
Homecoming is a time to show school spirit. It is a time of unity and a time to support our school. I remember the Homecoming parade and all of the tailgating before the big game, and the huge bonfire, which is great for bonding. It's a great chance to meet new people.

Elly Meinke - Freshman
Homecoming is all about connecting the generations.

Elizabeth Graham - Alumni
It's always fun visiting the campus—walking through the hallways of DeMoss, seeing all the new additions, visiting with old friends and watching a football game or hockey game. Homecoming captures all the traditions of Liberty that I hold dear. It feels like home again.