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H omecoming 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.

Safety a priority in new projects

Students, staff anticipate completion of bridge, tunnel

Jessen Jones

Liberty University remains committed to student’s safety with the future openings of the pedestrian bridge and tunnel, according to Liberty officials.

For some students, the bridge and tunnel will be a construction project that they may never use. But for others, a tunnel and bridge mean a safer college experience.

Senior Brendan Jones looks forward to the opening of both the bridge and tunnel. Having to walk over the railroad tracks on his way to Sonic and Wal-Mart, Jones understands the need and sees the projects as a much better route.

“I think it’s a much safer way,” he said. “The train can back things up, and I get delayed, so I’ll be using the tunnel pretty often.”

Maggie Coogan, a corporate engineer for Liberty in the Planning and Construction department, has been working closely with both projects.

“We know (students) cross the railroad tracks, and that’s not safe. We know they want to cross Wards Road, and that’s also

See BRIDGE, A2

Liberty counsel represents Texas student

High school freshman suspended for suggesting opinion on homosexuality

Amy Royall

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 interview. Following his statement of his personal beliefs, the German teacher wrote Ary 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

See COUNCIL, A3
Walking along the James River in Lynchburg, one would find that he or herself walking back in time.

On June 17 and 18, 1864, according to history major General David Hunter, Union officers squared off against General Jubal Early from the Confederate forces in order to both save and capture the city of Lynchburg.

The battle, according to Dr. Brian Melton, history professor at Liberty University, was really more of a skirmish that lasted three days and turned Hunter’s troops from Virginia’s army.

Hunter was unsuccessful in his attempt to gain the city, and Lynchburg remained in the possession of the Confederacy, providing the vital link for key access to the railroad network that supplied General Robert E. Lee’s army throughout the war, according to historians.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War. While the anniversary of the first battles has passed, as Melton explains, the 150th anniversary of the entire war will be the next three to four years.

Lynchburg, like many other cities in the Mason-Dixon Line, is the home of 11 tunnels along the Civil War trail, according to timberbridge.org. Among these are hospitals, warehouses, forts and storehouses, all of which served the purpose of educating individuals about the roles chaplains, priests, rabbis and other religious organizations had in the Civil War. The museum has artifacts from both Confederate and Union soldiers, as well as a collection of personal stories, which was the end of America’s founding period.

The country was changed forever. If it was going to be written in its founding principles, about freedom and liberty, then it was going to be a nation that tolerate slaves and whites.

The idea that a nation founded on the principle that all men are created equal yet some were forced into servitude, according to Melton, meant to be resolved. He said that slavery was an issue that greatly contradicted the Declaration of Independence.

"By the time we got through the Civil War, it was obvious that slavery was still here, and it was no longer a double that all men are created equal and free," former president Abraham Lincoln said in a speech at Chin- nee in 1865.

Slavery was abolished before the end of the Civil War, but the United States of America became, once and for all, united.

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY
150th Anniversary of the Civil War
October 11, 2011

Cassidy is a news reporter.

Support for Breast Cancer Awareness Month

The Champion encourages community members to submit letters to the editor on any subject. Letters should not exceed 400 words and must be typed and signed. The deadline is 5 p.m. Friday. Letters and columns that appear on the opinion page are written solely by the editor on any subject. Letters should not exceed 400 words and must be typed and signed. The deadline is 5 p.m. Friday. Letters and columns that appear on the opinion page are written solely by the editor.

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

Breast Cancer

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and organizations all over the country are passionately working to raise awareness about the importance of mammograms.

Mammograms Annually A Must

A mammogram performed annually is dedicated to doing just that.

"We were able to sell over 800 shirts and donate approximately $800 to support the fund," Fire Chief Steve V. 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 indicator to the American public. We want to present it to Americans in others."

Local businesses have come together for this cause. Businesses such as Radiology Consultants, Bee Line Towing, Southern Air and High Risk Spotswear have partnered with the Fire Department.

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Liberty alumns gets man off of death row
Mississippi man released on time served with the help of local lawyer

Katherine Lacaze

The motto of Liberty University is “training theologians for Christ,” and every secular field. Some Liberty alumni have served long hours in jail, in some are nameless. One of them is an Irish company for a go from death row to living a life with family.

Mr. David Corry, a lawyer at Pafford Law Firm in DC, was the lead lawyer for the case of 19-year-old Maye in his day in the law. Mr. Lacaze was sentenced to the death penalty in 2001, but less than two months ago, left a prison in Mississippi. Pafford, who graduated from Liberty in 1996 and then attended law school at George Washington University in Washington, DC, 1999, has gone on to work in the legal field at a variety of different institutions and companies, including Fried Frank LLP and Costigan & Budlin LLP in DC. In the fall of 2010, after Pafford had left Costigan & Budlin, he, along with Bill John Lawson and Ross, also Liberty alumna and former members of the Liberty Debate Team, started their own law practice. According to Pafford, it was at this firm that he heard the final result of Corry’s case.

“Where we ended up compared to where we started is quite an improvement,” Pafford said.

According to Pafford, he first got introduced to the Corry case in 2003 after reading an article about the case on the Mississippi Native Review Network website. The article also had a link to a blog by Radley Balko, a law professor at George Mason University and a writer for the libertarian online magazine Reason.com.

An article on Reason.com by Balko stated that Pafford’s involvement in the death penalty case was about the same age as Corry’s daughter, and the individual named Jamie Smith occupied the right side of the case. According to the Mississippi Supreme Court, Jamie Smith was about the same age as Corry’s daughter.

Pafford’s involvement would take years of thorough and hard work. After requesting and reviewing over 300 pages of file, including a sentence of misconduct in September, Maye’s death penalty sentence was set aside and he was resentenced to life in prison without parole by the court in Marion County in December, 2001, according to the Mississippi Supreme Court. Maye’s apartment was on the left side of the duplex, and an individual named Jamie Smith occupied the right side, according to the Mississippi Supreme Court.

An article on Reason.com by Balko stated that Maye fired his gun into the dark and shot three times, unknown who had entered his apartment were police officers. “Thought someone was trying to break in and my life and that,” Maye later wrote in a note to church. The fund raised to get them to a desktop computer was so small, only $100 was raised.

Pafford said he was horrified after reading the court transcripts because it was pretty obvious that the results of the first trial had not been just. It also shocked an emotional train with him. “My oldest daughter, at the time of 2001, was also the same age as Corry’s daughter on the night of the shooting which was back in 2002,” Pafford said. “I sort of thinking what it would be like for me if I had to do this all over again and have to write a second-blown chase. And if something was happening in 2002, you end up on death row.”

Pafford then asked to hear some translated terms such as “demanding full retraction” of the suspension. If the School Board does not “Permanently suspend” the teacher, the teacher said, “It is not just hard to suppress a statement in public school.”

The discipline firm states that they are a `constitutionally protected’ the liberty of speech. “Liberty Counsel for Education is representing Ay in this example of religious discrimination,” according to the firm. “Judy was suspended for saying something outside of class, and it was a day of self-defense. The decision was not for the student, but for the teacher who believes that what she said was a necessary thing.”

Sullivan is the graduate assistant.

COUNCIL continued from A1

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LU continues to benefit from generous alumni donors

Alumni return to give back after receiving so much

Rachel Deus

Alumni donate financially for support network
to connect alumni and students with one another.

Deus is an opinion writer.

OPINION

FROM THE DESK

By Ashley Bollinger

Ring by spring. At Liberty, we all know the phrase. Last Thursday I got my ringing. Graduation is near for me at Liberty. NYU. 59 Facebook notifications, 20 hours on an airport, two unannounced exams on a deadline and finally, six hours of sleep last night. Ask about a Fail Break.

With Liberty’s notorious talk of manage — including a book given to freshmen this year bearing the encouragement: “I had always been one to criticize the Liberty story.” “We met at convocation…” or “We had freshman seminar together…” was always a target of my ring to spring nonsense.

Well, I met Kevin McAlpin during leadership week at Liberty. We both served as prayer leaders. Don’t get more Liberty friendly than that. I have since attended my approach to the famous claim that 65 percent of students meet their spouse at Liberty. Liberty is a unique place. It draws in thousands of Christians who desire to be their best that they can be in this given field together to learn and grow not only academically, but spiritually as well.

It is not because of some crazy desire to have Liberty students more and produce future Liberty students — although I’m sure that happens — but people are encouraged to embrace the Lord’s ways.

It is not that marriage is pushed or shoved down people’s throats, but 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 together 12,000 like-minded young adults together to run with the Lord.

My best advice to all of those who, like I was, are critical of the unions that are born at Liberty is to be patient and wait.

“Theology is that it is a conversation to learn and grow not only academically, but spiritually as well.”

The taxes here are pretty rotten — especially for students who only have here temporarily, and many of whom have no plans to stay here any longer than their four year fall term demands. 11.5 percent of food tax and 7.5 percent tax on groceries is something that will plague you during the rest of your time at Liberty, whether you’re a voter or not.

And for those who complain about the exorbitant amount of money that we pay in taxes as students, voting is an ideal way to change that.

The majority of the taxes that we pay are determined by the state government, and it is government that we have to live with.

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The majority of the taxes that we pay are determined by the state government, and it is government that we have to live with.

However, of that $2 billion, only 40 percent of the total funding came directly from alumni donors. "It is a time to become reacquainted with old friends who, despite seeing over 200,000 new students at the dates, became a family.

Throughout the four decades of the school's existence, students and alumni alike have observed the university's growth — an achievement 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, it is estimated that 30 percent of the total funding came directly from college alumni.

Liberty uses donations in many ways, from scholarships for students to fund the building of new facilities on campus. No matter how big the scholarship, it will always need the aid of others to help it succeed. The word donations does not just mean financial donations either. There are lots 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." 2011 alumni Sam Thompson said. He helps the organization at Liberty through volunteer work, events. Alumni For Liberty (AFL) says it helps "mentoring students interested in careers in business and also of our power to change them.

And, in my books, that in and of itself is more than enough of a reason to go out and vote.

- Andrew Gaul

G a b e  G a l l a n t

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Deus is an opinion writer.

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

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
Outlook@liberty.edu

Shipping out to a warzone for 12 to 18 months in the middle of their senior year is not a concern for most Liberty University students. North Carolina native and Liberty University Military Affairs Office employee Pfc. Nate Hertzog has no deal with just that.

In about six weeks, Hertzog will deploy to Afghanistan with the U.S. Army's 305th Military Police (MP) Company for "about a year."

"They don't know for sure," he said. "It is the military, so it could be as little as six months or it could be a year and a half, but the orders say about a year."

According to Hertzog, soldiers often say MP stands for "multi-purpose" because they have so many different responsibilities. MPs provide security coverage, 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 as both Barney sol-

diers and law enforcement officers.

"MPs can do pretty much anything," Hertzog said. "We have to be certified in OC spray, the barrel and must, so that you see your normal police ofFicer train on, we do as well."

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

"You always have that first opinion of what's going to happen while I'm over there," he said. "It is going to be physically rough, it is going to be an arduous assignment — if that's such a thing. How hard is it going to be bringing away from my family and my wife? But you have to remind your-

self 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 each 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 psychol-

ogy.

Members of the Student Veterans Group on campus, especially the group's president Marine 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 veter-

ans have encouraged me to do, which has challenged me, is to start a Bible study when I'm over there, to spread the Gospel, be an example in that environment and to minster to the people over there," Hertzog said.

He said the Army provides further train-
ing in-country to prepare soldiers for inter-

acting 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 sup-

portive 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 Jamie-Lynne were married in August before he left for a month of training, and soon he will be fighting overseas for the next year. He

wanted people to remember that "families also serve."

"They now have to carry all the burdens that their spouse did while the spouse is off having their own challenges being de-

ployed," 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.

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CROSSWAY
Shedding the stubborn five

Emilly Brown
emilybrown@liberty.edu

When it comes to weight loss, there is nothing more frustrating than the last five pounds before the target goal weight. These last five pounds tend to stick around like the smell of running shoes in the back seat of a car. But as if to make no matter how much effort the health enthusiast puts towards the loss of these pounds, there is truly nothing that can...
Abby Koppenhaver
akoppenhaver@liberty.edu

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

Associate Director of Admissions and Canadian Academic Counselor Sharon 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 himself originally from London, Ontario, Bloomfield likes to make sure the Canadian students are transitioning well and getting along at Liberty.

“It’s kind of fun 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, reserved 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.

Here, Wilson is a junior from Richmond Hill, Ontario and has attended the event 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 differences.

“A lot of people ask me what we celebrate because we don’t have pilgrims,” Brown said of the confusion. “I always thought Thanksgiving was a universal thing.”

Canadian Thanksgiving can be traced back to 1578, when Martin Frobisher, a British explorer, was wandering 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.
This Halloween, Shop with Imagination!

Help people in our community get back to work.

Fantasy 4-1-1, Here are tips for week six

As mid-season approaches, young talents becoming potential threats for teams

Andrew Woollolk
abwilfolk@liberty.edu

What a year it has been so far. What's this? The Lions look unstoppable? What's that? The Cats are out of playoff contention already? James Harrison hasn't been fired yet!

For fantasy owners, it seems the rug has been pulled out from under the fantasy football at the bottom of the pile trying to pick up the pieces players of these rosters.

For the upcoming weeks, stay steady with your own teams. Don't go off of the deep end and extend your roster just because two. Also, be wise, you should be able to somewhat predict the upcoming success for most of the teams in the league. Players on playoff caliber teams are the best to have in the midseason, laying 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 your players who have the red hot hand and get the most out of them.

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 - Jerricho Cotchery - Nelson just signed a new three-year contract extension. This game could be huge for you who the Pack want to keep him so.

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 Daniels way.

Defensive - Green Bay - The return of Tramon Williams has given a substantial boost to the Packers defense.

Kicker - Dan Bailey - The Cowboys might have finally solved their kicking woes with Bailey, who has been on fire for the past few weeks.

Sit 'Em

Quarterback Mark Sanchez - Coach Rex Ryan said in recent interviews that he plans to return to the running game as the focus of offense.

Wide Receiver - Brandon Marshall - Still struggling with drops, this season.

"Check team websites throughout the week for information on how they plan to use their roster in the upcoming week."

Marshall will also have Darrell Bevis lined up in front of him for a majority of the game.

Running Back - Brandon Green-Ellis - The Cowboys are in the bottom few of the league in pass defense, and in the top five in run defense, guess which area Seattle will attack.

Tight End - Heath Miller - The Steelers are busy keeping Miller on the line to protect Roethlisberger instead of having him run passing routes.

Defense - San Francisco - Dexter run the risk of playing through their defense facing the high scoring Lions.

Kicker - Alex Henery - Henery has missed a few field goals in the past few games, and though his job doesn't seem to be on the line right now, his confidence may be low.

Woollolk is a sports writer.

CANCER continued from A10

Treatments including chemotheraphy and radiation treatment.

"Most away from home while she was going through the recovery, chemotheraphy, and radiation. So I didn't get the full impact of the way hard it was for her and my dad. But I know it was a huge journey that my mom went through," Luke Atken said.

He added that seeing his mother keep a positive attitude throughout her battle with cancer has even affected the way he plays hockey, reminding him that no matter how hard things might be, it is nothing compared to what his mother and family had to go through.

Kathy Atken has since recovered from her breast cancer and remains a strong pillar for her husband Bryce and her three sons. She is also becoming a pillar of support for other women who share her experience as she is involved in giving support to others who have breast cancer.

Luke Atken is currently a senior playing the forward position for the Liberty Men's Hockey Team. He has been a fan favorite during his time playing at the LaHaye Ice Center. He has been a regular member of the team, often playing in the center and drawing the number 19 Jersey.

The Liberty Men's Hockey Team has continued to have an impressive record during the last few seasons and has started the current season with a very strong start.

Atken is a sports writer.

BASEBALL continued from A10

Director of Athletics Jeff Barber said the new improvement will "allow baseball and softball to compete on the national level."

Barber also believes the remodeling will be a great addition to the baseball program. Barber believes the new stadium will not only attract recruits, but show how much the university invests into the athletic program.

"When our recruits, student fans and visitors walk into the new 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, originally named after professional and former Liberty coach Al Worthington. Worthington has since been inducted into the Liberty Hall of Fame class of 2010 for his accomplishments, professionally and while being a coach and athletic director at Liberty.

The 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 following the 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.

Other programs have experienced significant improvements as well, especially Liberty's football, soccer, tennis and outdoor track.

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.

"As 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 opportunity to have quality facilities for these teams to compete in," Barber said.

Keeney is a sports writer.

For costume ideas visit goodwillvalleys.com

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10% of every transaction goes to benefit the community!
Dr. Rob Van Engen has seen Liberty football explode

Julie Gonzalez
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You can take the professor out of football, but you can't take football out of the professor. The year was 1980, and Robert van Engen was a freshman at Liberty University.

"I was excited to come to Liberty because I could play football and become a pastor. Not many schools offered that back in the early 80s," Van Engen said. "I was a wide receiver/kick and punt returner, and I wore number four. It was cool because my wife's number on the LU softball team was four as well."

When Van Engen played football, Williams Stadium did not exist and the Flames had to travel to City Stadium for their home games.

"City Stadium was small compared to my high school field. It was a different home field because fans had to travel from the island dorms or the hotel downtown or the campus to get to the games. The atmosphere was good and it seemed to me like the fans enjoyed the games. I didn't play much because I was a first year student," Van Engen said.

Liberty football has undergone some major changes since Van Engen played 31 years ago.

"I 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 enhances 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 devotions 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 | sports@liberty.edu

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 2003.

BracketBusters is important for smaller programs, with six appearances has the most BracketBusters appearances among Big South members.

The conference received two wins in 2006, 2007 and 2010. It has also been selected for national television coverage four out of the last five years. William, who was required to schedule a return game with Iona for the 2012-2013 season.

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BracketBusters sponsored by ESPN. Their opponent will be announced on Jan. 30.

Overcoming adversity of a loved one

Jay Sir | siryw8@gmail.com

It is never easy to muster up the strength and calm to focus when you hear of your parents getting sick. It is even harder to hold yourself together when you hear that your mother has been diagnosed with breast cancer, but Liberty hockey player Luke Adler said he gained a newfound respect and a new appreciation for his mother when she was battling cancer during his sophomore year.

"First thought the worst scenario that my mom was going to be ill and never get better. To be honest, I didn't know what to think," Adler said as he recalled the time when he first heard of his mother cancer over the phone.

"I knew she was a strong, caring woman who has always taken care of me. Now I was faced with the reality of what her life is vulnerable and sick. That was very hard to accept." Adler said.

"I decided to focus on my Mom’s battle and the team, and to appreciate every moment that I was able to have with her."

Aitken said he gained a new appreciation for his mother when she was battling cancer during his sophomore year.

"First thought the worst scenario that my mom was going to be ill and never get better. To be honest, I didn’t know what to think," Adler said as he recalled the time when he first heard of his mother’s cancer over the phone.

"It occurred to me one day that we should build a new stadium adjacent to William-Stadium," he said.

"After studying the idea, we found that building a new stadium would not cost much more than renovating the old," Fishel said. "Architects soon concluded that the new site next to the School of Worship, where the grandstands is now located is a perfect fit for a baseball stadium. I am convinced we made the right decision and I am excited about it."

Les Schofer I Promotional Publications

Pushing for Mid-Majors

Flames to compete in 2012 Sears BracketBusters

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Les Schofer I Promotional Publications

Upgrades to athletics in full swing

Baseball stadium in the works for 2013

Brittany Renney | stacyrenney@liberty.edu

According to Chancellor Jerry Falwell Jr., plans for a new baseball stadium are in the works and the target completion date is prior to the start of the Spring 2013 baseball season. The new stadium will be located between the recently expanded Williams Stadium and the Green Hall parking lot, with expected seating of about 3,000 fans. For now, the baseball program will continue to play at its current home, Worthington Stadium.

"Not only will students who have never been to Worthington be able to see about 3,000 spectators at the new stadium," Falwell said. "We also had the problem of why the team would practice and play during the construction period.

"It occurred to me one day that we should build a new stadium adjacent to William-Stadium," he said.

"After studying the idea, we found that building a new stadium would not cost much more than renovating the old," Fishel said. "Architects soon concluded that the new site next to the School of Worship, where the grandstands is now located is a perfect fit for a baseball stadium. I am convinced we made the right decision and I am excited about it."

See BASEBALL, see A8

Rising Up — The men's basketball team recent success has them once again playing in the Sears BracketBusters sponsored by ESPN. Their opponent will be announced on Jan. 30.

For the first time, all of the men's basketball programs will compete against an undetermined squad as a road team.

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Looking back

In 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 distinctly 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 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 Mountain Lovers 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 to the B.R. Lakin School of Religion. Other buildings and facilities include the Library. The transformation began with the renovation of the fourth floor of DeMoss Hall to house student and faculty. 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, 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, 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, DeMoss Hall to house offices and classrooms.

As Liberty University celebrates its 40th anniversary, the school celebrates not only a milestone, but the entire staff continued to do so as well. In the days ahead, Liberty will continue to transform its campus to accommodate a growing student body, but still maintains quality and beauty.

To be able to fulfill the dream his father had for the campus and transform the campus into one of world-class proportions, Jerry Falwell Jr. said, “We are not creating a pedestrian campus.” Jerry Falwell Jr. said, “Very few 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. “The new library will become the focal point of the campus and the center of student life,” Falwell said. “The plans are magnificent and will be unveiled shortly.”

Within the next five years, a Jeffersonian theme will be seen on every campus. According to Jerry Falwell Jr., his father loved Jeffersonian architecture and insisted on using Jeffersonian architecture on the campus. Looking back
Another of Jerry’s dreams achieved

By: Kassandra Roodling

October 11, 2011

Since 1971, “mountains” have seemed to move at the vision 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 1,354 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 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 G. Godwin said.

“Today, Liberty offers more than 100 undergraduate degree programs. In 1980, the online program was established providing students around the world with a quality Christian-based education. Liberty has also been recognized for its top-ranked Law School and Doctorate programs, as well as the new Tower Theater, which opened last year.”

“The theater takes us away from the mundane moments of college life. We can learn a lot about art, literature, history and just the world around us,” junior Classic Sweetz 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 Dabbs, 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.

“Liberty has been great about creating an innovative new library, a teaching university,” Godwin said.

“But it is true, we are excited about the 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 Dabbs, do not seem to notice, her roommate Courtney Adams does.

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“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 and what they have been told in high school, students bring to their university experience what they read, what they hear the same topics. But here, we know what we’re about— the purpose of our teaching. And our study of mathematics is to seek truth, to help the student excel will definitely be a place I will want to go,” sophomore Hillary Bernett 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.

“So having an entire room devoted to helping me excel will definitely be a place I will want to go,” sophomore Hillary Bernett said.

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A heart for others: CSER ignites attitudes of service

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 5,200 students volunteered just shy of 130,000 hours, Wu said.

According to an economic study released in 2010, Liberty students, faculty and staff contributed 674,879 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 coursework) to determine the average one-and-a-half hours 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 service 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 cleaning 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.

Cundin is a feature reporter.
Advancements in latest technology make learning easier, more enjoyable for students

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 desks with a small wielded computer was next to connect the computers to the world wide web. By 2004, 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 campus.

The access points installed around campus appear in the form of small teal boxes mounted to the walls or the ceiling in areas of need for wireless connection. The access points are located in the buildings surrounding them. 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 the need. Zealand encourages students who are having difficulties with their connection to the internet to obtain a help ticket from the Information Technology Help Desk.

"The more they get that information out there, the easier we can correct their needs," Zealand said. "We count on our students to help with that feedback."

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As technology continues to change, the university has been working constantly to keep up with the changes in technology. The access points installed around campus appear in the form of small teal boxes mounted to the walls or the ceiling in areas of need for wireless connection. The access points are located in the buildings surrounding them. 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 the need. Zealand encourages students who are having difficulties with their connection to the internet to obtain a help ticket from the Information Technology Help Desk.

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Laird in a news reporter.

...
christian commitment

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 as cornerstone, student leadership, student-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 classrooms have a spiritual emphasis, but it's very hard to get to the individual students—student leadership allows the chance to connect and be personally directed as someone loves them and mentors and mobilizes them," Associate Director of Prayer Leaders and Discipleship Pastor Chris 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.

"It's really unique, it separates us from other schools," said senior Sarah Wilks, who served as a prayer leader for three years. "We've all got the opportunity to be ministered to and be discipled. 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 way Liberty has stood 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 meaningfulness of the administration and senior leadership to remain faithful to our spiritual foundations.

Although the commitment has remained, some things have changed over the years to accommodate the growing student population's needs and hectic 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. Edwald has brought in the past few years is a stickler about the conviction and faith 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."

"It's really life on life. The whole goal of the student athlete's life is to bring your position your ministry. Let's go with each other, let's pray for each other and let's pray for the guys in our position. Let's live 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 one another's faith.

"The experience the student athletes gain now will be invaluable after college," Gomes said. "It's really life on life. The whole goal of the student athlete's life is to bring your position your ministry. Let's go with each other, let's pray for each other and let's pray for the guys in our position. Let's live 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 one another's faith.

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"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 those four areas," Deitch said.

Wanna know more? Check out www.libertychampion.com

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

"Jesus built into the three, he built into the fourth area is to develop the spiritual aspect of the student athlete's life," Gomes said. "Jean built into the three, he built into the 13, and he built into the 79. One of the ways that we are going to impact our whole team is by you making your position your ministry. Let's go with each other, let's pray for each other and let's pray for the guys in our position. Let's live 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 one another's faith.

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See ATHLETICS, B7

School prioritizes spiritual health

Allison Cundiff
acundiff@liberty.edu

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See ATHLETICS, B7

Wanna know more? Check out www.libertychampion.com

athletic accomplishment

Flames’ honorable legacy continues on with NCAA

Kyle Harvey
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Deep inside the Football Operation 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 personally oversees to the spiritual lives and combustion 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 mandates 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 football team.

"We have a biblical model based on Luke 2:52, and what that verse says is, ‘And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature 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.

"On the basis of that Bible verse there are four areas that we give attention to within our athletic program. The first has to do with academics... The second piece has to do with athletics—the next area is socially... The fourth area is to develop the spiritual aspect of the student athlete's life," Gomes said.

"Jesus built into the three, he built into the 13, and he built into the 79. One of the ways that we are going to impact our whole team is by you making your position your ministry. Let's go with each other, let's pray for each other and let's pray for the guys in our position. Let's live 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 one another's faith.

"The experience the student athletes gain now will be invaluable after college," Gomes said. "It's really life on life. The whole goal of this life on life is to help them graduate and then start working at some newspaper or radio station. They've been practicing 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 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 lifting up the name of Jesus.

"Sometimes people ask me, ‘Hey, the bigger the school gets you must be doing 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 they were really guys in the same 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 those four areas."
Liberty culture continues to grow in diversity

Devin Francis
studentlife@liberty.edu

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, headback riding, concerts, movie nights, ice skating 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 last few years.

“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 have 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 accomplishes two 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 benefitted 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.

FYO
The Snowflex Centre at Liberty University is the only facility of its kind in the United States. Snowflex was opened to the public Aug. 3, 2009.

The Student Activities’ staff, Ward said, engages in multiple weekly meetings, physical labor, the renting of equipment and filling out numerous work orders, among other responsibilities, to ensure that every event and activity presented to Liberty students goes off without a hitch.

Anderson said that countless hours of research and the analysis of available data also play a big role in making sure that “students are indeed benefiting from the activities taking place on our campus.”

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KING OF THE MOUNTAIN—Completed this past summer, the Towns’ home sits atop a hill with a picturesque view of the University. The university will retain 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.

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 essentially are to fulfill Jerry Falwell’s vision of playing at the lowest level as a top division one program. Jerry likes that we are small but we look like we're already at that advanced level. We’re charged to work above our conference level,” Wetmore said.

Looking to the future, Wetter said he is looking at the coming of a Liberty athletics app. Presently, Liberty is able to offer the nLibertyU app through Blackboard, Blackboard’s app is a basic template that any school that now has Blackboard can access it.

“However, we would like to offer a more specialized app specific to Liberty, more focused on us,” Wetter said.

“It does get our information out there but there’s still a lot of small marketable app people to try to develop our own applications. That’s really where the future of things is,” Wetter said. “As technology grows and phone users grow, we will certainly try to keep up with where technology is going,” Wetmore said.

Harvey is a sports reporter.
The story of Liberty University's first 40 years

Ashley Bullinger
ashleybullinger@liberty.edu

Over the past four decades, Liberty University has grown exponentially and with its 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.) 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 morals," Jerry Falwell, Jr. said.

While Liberty has remained focused on this vision, the school has undergone many changes, both extracurricular and academic, over the past 40 years, Jerry Falwell, Jr. said.

Liberty University alumni Winne Easley, Brad Butler, Tamara Park and Darrell Jordan graduated in the classes of 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2002 respectively. Each remembers a unique aspect of foundation that is found in each of their stories.

Graduating with a degree in Elementary Education, Easley went on to receive her Masters in Education as well as her Education specialist in Administration. Easley has served as principal of the upper school at Liberty Christian Academy and is now Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction at the school.

She is also currently a professor at Liberty. Similar to Easley, Butler also found that the foundation he acquired at Liberty was fundamental to his future.

Butler graduated with a degree in Political Science. Having worked in Washington for a number of years, Butler discovered that his foundation from Liberty was most necessary when God changed the direction of his career.

"God called me to a number of significant changes for me, one of which was a career change. In that sense, Liberty proved the lessons they taught in there and instilled in us were a benefit," Butler said. "A career change can be a devastation. I believe it was a career because of the spiritual lessons I learned at Liberty."

Butler is now a Contract Administrator for Wyley Wilson, an architectural design firm.

Graduating with a degree in Telecommunications, Park found it was not the university itself that helped her to succeed, but the opportunities Liberty took to push her forward in her career progression.

"It hasn't been the degree from Liberty that has been most beneficial, but rather the experiences and friendships that have enriched me in both career and life," Park said. "One example, during my sophomore year I did an internship in Brussels, Belgium at a Christian media outlet. Shortly after graduation, I went on to produce videos in Brussels for the next couple of years."

Now a producer and author, Park currently produces a TV series called Nobel Exchange for Halogen. She is also author of the book "Hermit Envoys from Rome to Jerusalem."

"Being having entered into the world of communications, Jordan graduated with degrees in both communication studies and sports management. "The greatest things I learned at Liberty were the broadcast production and video editing skills that I learned through the communications program," Jordan said. "Another valuable thing I learned was the value in doing an internship. My sports management program required an internship before graduation. My internship at Comcast SportsNet led to my first job."

Since its beginning, Liberty has been producing graduates with the drive and ability necessary to succeed in their given field, according to Director of Liberty's Alumni Relations Tyler Falwell.

Beginning in 1974, Liberty's student body has grown from 154 students in its first graduating class of 1975 to a student body of 12,037 students in 2011. Liberty has grown exponentially and with its growth new opportunities have been brought to students and alumni alike.
We can usher in the changes and embrace with confidence that God is watching over us.

— Brad Butler

With Chancellor Falwell

Q. What was your father’s vision for the university?

A. When Liberty was founded, most people would have thought that a Christian university that was non-sectarian was an oxymoron, that it was not possible, that it was an unattainable goal.

Falwell envisioned a Christian university where the students would be in a learning environment where they would be discouraged from ever compromising their Christian beliefs. He believed that, if it was Christian, it should be superior to the best that the world had ever offered. He wanted to create a Christian university that was the best in the world.

Our son was a part of the team and was a great student. The football team was not only the number of students or sports community that the team represented, but also the presence of the founder.

The biggest difference is that there is no Jerry Falwell, Jr. But there is Jerry Falwell, Sr. The university is moving forward, bigger, better, and thought so soon. Jerry Falwell Jr. is running the school, but it is a little bit not having Jerry Falwell Sr. "Jerry Falwell Jr. is the true Falwell." The sense of community, Taber remembers, is what sets Liberty apart from many schools—a tradition that is unique to the school. We were all a family.

Taber said, "We were all a family." We had a tremendous men's basketball team where the coach not only made an impact on the students but also on the students. Taber said, "The university is moving forward, bigger, better, and thought so soon. Jerry Falwell Jr. is running the school, but it is a little bit not having Jerry Falwell Sr. "Jerry Falwell Jr. is the true Falwell." The sense of community, Taber remembers, is what sets Liberty apart from many schools—a tradition that is unique to the school. We were all a family.

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defining

HOMECOMING

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 old friendships, and watching a football game. Homecoming captures all the traditions of Liberty that I hold dear. It feels like home again.