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Class Notes

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Class Notes

September 02, 2008

Class of 1981

Sid Bream was recently named the new hitting coach for the New York-Penn League State College Spikes. Bream, 47, is well-known for his 12 seasons as a major league player, including six with the Pittsburgh Pirates from 1985-90. A native of Carlisle, Pa., Bream was originally drafted in the second round of the 1981 draft. After the 1990 season, Bream signed as a free agent with the Atlanta Braves before joining the Astros in 1994.

Gregory Couser recently received the Cedarville University (Ohio) Deans Service Award for 11 to 20 years of service. A faculty member at Cedarville University since 1994, Couser serves as professor of Bible and Greek. He earned his B.A. and M.A. from Liberty University in 1981 and 1988 and now resides in Xenia, Ohio.

Class of 1989

Dan Greear, a lifelong South Charleston, W.Va., resident, is running for West Virginia attorney general. After graduating summa cum laude from Liberty University with a B.S. in Political Science, he attended WVU College of Law, where he was placed on the West Virginia Law Review. Greear has worked with three law firms in his legal career. He served in the House of Delegates representing the 30th District in 1995 and 1996. Greear married his wife, Amy, in 1992. They have two children, JD, 9, and Ben, 6. Amy is a hospice social worker. The family is active at Spring Hill Baptist Church, where Greear has attended all his life and now serves as a deacon, Sunday school teacher and youth leader. www.dangreear.com

Dr. Jeffrey Stephen Grote, a 1989 M.A.R. graduate of Liberty went on to receive a Ph.D., with a specialization of physical education, from Walden University, Minneapolis, Minn. He is currently studying for a Doctor of Ministry degree from the University of the South, Sewanee, Tenn. His focus in the D. Min. will be Christian Education. Grote, a Pennsylvania native, has lived in Maryland since age 13. He currently works for the Arc of Southern Maryland, in Prince Frederick, as an Employment Team Specialist. He attends Trinity Episcopal Church, Newport, Md.

Class of 1993

Octavio De La Grana began his second year with the Miami HEAT as the team's assistant coach/advance scout. He has 18 years of head coaching experience at the high school level, including two stints at Florida Christian High School, where he led his team to the Class 2A

Championship in 1996. He spent eight years as head coach of Westminster Christian High School's basketball team. In 2005, he reached his 400th high school coaching victory, with Florida Christian. He and his wife, Angie, reside in Palmetto Bay with their five children: Derrick, Daniel, Chelsea, Jenny and Annie.

Edwin A. Miller, president and chief executive officer of Everest Software Inc., based in Dulles, Va., was named to "American Venture Magazine's Top 40 Under 40." Miller, 37, was nominated during his tenure as CEO of Sigaba, along with hundreds of nominees from across the U.S. Miller joined Everest Software in Nov. 2006. Previously, he served as president and CEO of Sigaba. Prior to Sigaba, he served as president and CEO of Infodata Systems as well as Ikimbo. He was also president and COO of XML Solutions after beginning his career in sales and marketing at PSINet. He earned a B.S. in management and linguistics from Liberty University and an M.B.A. from George Washington University.

Class of 1994

After graduating from Liberty, **David Benham** and **Jason Benham**, identical twins, were drafted by Major League Baseball — Jason played for the Baltimore Orioles; David played in both the Boston Red Sox and St. Louis Cardinals organizations. After retiring from baseball in 2002, the brothers earned their real estate licenses together and began the Benham REO Group based in Charlotte, N.C. In February, the real estate group was awarded a U.S. Chamber of Commerce Blue Ribbon Small Business Award.

Class of 1996

Jason Smart has been named the new Morehead High School head football coach. Smart spent the past seven seasons as head football coach at McMichael High School, guiding the team to its first-ever playoff appearance and playoff victory in 2006. Smart, who was named North State 2-A Coach of the Year in 2006, is a 1991 Morehead graduate. He was a four-year starter on Liberty's football team and was an All-American his senior year.

Class of 1998

Wendy Warburton, a mass communications summa cum laude LU Honors Program graduate, is running for House District 34 in the Montana State Legislature. Endorsed by the Montana Right to Life and a seven-year NRA member, as well as a member of the Montana Shooting Sports Association, Warburton is the Republican candidate seeking to represent northern Hill and Blaine counties, which includes her hometown of Chinook and her current city of residence, Havre, Mont. www.wendywarburton.com; e-mail wendywarburton@gmail.com; 709 9th St., Havre, MT 59501

Miscellaneous Announcements

- Liberty University graduates **Michael Domke** ('89) & **JuliAn Domke** ('90) are two of 92 new missionaries appointed by the International Mission Board on April 9 in Sunnyvale, Texas. The couple resides in Jacksonville, Fla., with their two children, Michael and Andrea.
- Liberty graduates **Derek Parker** ('99 & '08) and **John Hartzell** ('02) have established Backpacks For The Homeless, a ministry dedicated to helping alleviate homelessness in America. The ministry distributes backpacks filled with everyday supplies and shares the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Parker and his wife, Stephanie, have four children. He is a high school guidance counselor at Highlands Christian Academy in Pompano Beach, Fla. Hartzell is the campus chaplain at Highlands Christian Academy and a youth pastor at Grace Baptist Church in Pompano Beach, Florida. He and his wife, Erika, had their first child in May. www.backpacks4thehomeless.org
- Liberty University's Baseball Office is attempting to locate alumni who played baseball for Liberty to participate in an alumni baseball game during Homecoming 2008. There is a golf outing planned for noon on Friday, Oct. 24, and an informal dinner at the clubhouse at 6 p.m. Batting practice will be held at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 25, under the new lights at Worthington Stadium, and play begins at 7:30. For more information visit www.LibertyFlames.com or e-mail jtoman@liberty.edu.
- A Youth Aflame Reunion will be held in Lynchburg, Va., Sept. 24-27, 2009. This event is open to anyone who traveled with any of the singing teams — Youth Aflame Choir, All God's Children, The Chorale, Young Believers, Youth Aflame Singers, SALT — plus anyone who worked under the leadership of Gordon Luff in any capacity. For more information, call Sheila Colclasure at (972) 484 2903 or e-mail larrysheila@sbcglobal.net.

Alumni are invited to send submissions to Class Notes. Email tmaxwell@liberty.edu; fax 434-582-7710 or mail to Liberty Journal, 1971 University Blvd., Lynchburg Va 24502. Please include a headshot in high resolution (300 dpi) jpeg format with your submissions for the print version of the Journal.