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Black Hawk Down Ranger: Jeff Struecker

Cat Hewett
cahewett@liberty.edu

October 3, 1993, Mogadishu, Somalia

The mission was set, every detail settled and the troops were sent out. They were going to capture top ranking members of a violent warlords clan. The first 30 minutes of the mission went as they should. Then PFC. Todd Blackburn fell 70 feet from a Black Hawk helicopter, landing head first on the ground. Blackburn had to be evacuated immediately and three vehicles from the convoy took him.

INFLUENTIAL SUPPORTER
CLOSE FRIEND DIES FRIDAY

AMANDA THOMASON

A strong supporter of Liberty University, Charles "Boe" Adams, 76, died Wednesday, Oct. 27, at the Advanced Care Team in Winchester, Va. Boe donated $1 million to Liberty in 1990 for the purpose of contracting the Vines Center. The center received in name of his wife parents, Minnie Vines Adams. A portrait of her parents is portrayed at the entrance of the Vines Center according to Chancellor Jerry Falwell Jr.

"Boe" was a business partner of Arbel, who Falwell said. "He contributed more to Liberty University than any other in our history," Falwell said. "We will always be grateful to this man for his generous donation, and we will always be grateful to the Lord for his years of service to our university."

"Boe" was an assistant coach for the 1960 Gold Medal basketball team in the early 90s and what I learned from what his team had taught us so many years later, Falwell said. "He took the time to teach us what he had learned running an insurance company that is now part of ClujTegh, Falwell said.

"When Boe returned to Liberty in 2006 to be honored at a basketball game, he was amazed at how much detail I remembered about what his team had taught him so many years before," Falwell said. "We will always be grateful to Boe's active involvement in our university."

"I worked day to day with Boe and his team in the early 90s and what I learned from our teamwork. We learned how to manage a team and run the university like a business," Falwell said.

"No one more justly reflected Liberty than any other in our history," Falwell said. "He was not only a major donor to Liberty. He took the time to teach us what he had learned running an insurance company that is now part of ClujTegh, Falwell said."

"This is a huge loss for our university and our community," Falwell said. "We will always be grateful to Boe for his generosity and service to Liberty University."

The Champion encourages community members to submit letters to the editor on any subject. Letters must be signed and must not exceed 400 words. The deadline is 4 p.m. Friday. Letters and columns that appear are the opinion of the author solely and the Liberty University mission statement. All material submitted becomes property of the Champion. The Champion reserves the right to accept, edit or determine which columns should be published. Send letters to: Liberty Champion, Liberty University, Box 2050, Lynchburg, Va. 24502 or online: libertychampion.com.
Project receives $150,000 in grants.

ALLYSSA HINCKLE
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Professor Michele Maiuzzo will be assisting the Liberty University by working as a device to help in frequency on short radio.

Maiuzzo, assistant professor of electrical engineering was contracted by Bennett Aerospace. It is a company that, according to its website, deals with advanced technology and working with the government. The company was in the process of making a deal and is in contract with the Navy. The Navy suggested contacting Maiuzzo.

The reason for this is Maiuzzo has two patents already completed that pertain to the project. Bennett Aerospace contacted Maiuzzo to help them build a device. This device will help prevent and allow official communication in high frequency radio.

“When I understood what they were getting to do, I noticed that three earlier patents were going to be off the market. They wouldn’t be able to be written into a clinical proposal,” Maiuzzo said.

He began writing the technical proposal at the beginning of the summer. After six weeks of his own time, Maiuzzo had his technical proposal. During that time, Maiuzzo and Prof. Ron Sones, dean of the School of Engineering and Computational Sciences also submitted a new patent in Liberty University’s name, one that is commonly easier for people to understand. Maiuzzo said.

An earlier version of this project has already been built as a result of Maiuzzo earlier patents containing error correction decoding. These were necessary and used to the need of another model.

“The Navy, in their present request for proposals, stated the success of the earlier inventions when used for similar needs when describing the present need,” Maiuzzo said.

There will be three phases of the project. The first will be the research and design of a portable pump. Smith’s assistant has been working around the clock to collect research. A grant of $50,000 has been doled for the project. Bennett Aerospace, Maiuzzo said, “Something new and very unique.” Maiuzzo said.

“Something new and very unique, it will probably be 2-3 years before it will be ready to be produced. The second phase will make the actual prototype of the device. This will be mainly centered at Liberty and at that point there will be a grant of $1 million. It will be used in building the prototype. The third phase would be the actual production of the device. From there, Bennett Aerospace would take over production.” Maiuzzo said.

“Other professors and students will be working on the project with Maiuzzo. Most of them are students who are different programs. Sones designed the field of students and programas, he actually designed the idea of mutants and推出了 some R&R for students to work on. They will have practical benefits for students helping out. They will have practical experiences and possible job opportunities,” Maiuzzo said.

Maiuzzo is no stranger to the Navy. Maiuzzo has worked with them for over 30 years. He began working with them in 1990 after being a part of the largest licensing agreement of his career.

“Men in the field of students and professionals working on this field of work,” Maiuzzo said.

“They will have practical experiences and possible job opportunities,” Maiuzzo said.

Maiuzzo has seven patents already submitted. He currently has seven patents pending. He has three patents granted for the Navy. Three of the patents pending have been in the last two years while he has been at Liberty.
The Look’ puts A&F in hot water

RYAN MERCER

Ten years. That’s all it takes to turn an entire student population from public on any number once to public sympathy number one.

In the months following 9/11, Muslims in the United States were afraid of being associated with the extremists who took down the World Trade Towers and part of the Pentagon.

Fast-forward a decade. Many moderates and liberals have adopted Islam as the minority group to rally around. Less trade centers and parts of the country have adopted Islam as the minority group to rally around. Less trade centers and parts of the country.

When O’Reilly was asked by Goldberg why the majority of Muslims probably are not terrorists, but this doesn’t excuse the fact that a segment is probably the worst thing that can happen in our perception between Muslims and extremities.

Whatever we borrowed our memories from the past generations, and I look forward to relaying those memories to future generations. Thank you for providing us music for portable enjoyment.

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you. Williams. Thank you for providing us music for portable enjoyment.

Thank you for all of the listeners who have created past generations, and I look forward to relaying those memories to future generations.
Bees near extinction:
Pesticides create havoc for bees

ERIC A. R. O. R. O. C. K.
wrrock@liberty.edu

Albert Einstein once said, "If the bee disappears from the surface of the earth, man would have no more than four years to live. No more bee, no more pollination... No more men!"

When people see a bee, their initial reaction is to freak out, run away or find something in which to kill the small buzzing insect. However, what they may not realize is that they are not just killing one seemingly useless bee but are endangering themselves as well.

The number of bee colonies has been rapidly depleting over the past few decades. "The blame can be placed squarely on man's shoulders: the industrial exploitation of nature, the excessive addition of chemicals to produce better quality honey (and crops) in greater quantities. The quest for more has hatched," Jacques Tannet, writer for France's "Science Actualités" magazine, said.

One might be wondering "Why are bees so important?" Simply put, bees are vital to the pollination process. Without them, certain plants would cease to grow pollination... No more men!"

"If the bee disappears From the surface of the earth, man would have no more food as well as humans not having the necessities for survival. Essentially, bees are one of the most basic parts of the successful operation of the ecosystem and are depended on for the survival.

"Why are bees so important?" Simply put, bees are vital to the pollination process. Without them, certain plants would cease to grow pollination... No more men!"

The pollination of plants is done by a number of agents, including bees, butterflies, flies and other insects. But bees are by far the most effective pollinators. "Bees, via pollination, are responsible for 15 to 30 percent of the food U.S. consumers eat," Nichelle Van Tassell, daughter of bee expert Luc Van Tassell, said, according to Florida Bee Removal.

Reasons for bees' current decline include the use of pesticides and chemicals, diseases caused by mites and viruses, colony collapse disorder (CCD) and even the radiation from cell phones and other technological devices. Colony collapse disorder occurs when bees leave the hive and for various reasons, fail to return and then die.

"The West Coast is thought to have lost 60 percent of its commercial bee population, with 30 percent missing on the East Coast. CCD has since spread to Germany, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, Italy and Greece," Van Tassell said, according to Florida Bee Removal.

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OPINION

We asked:
What was your favorite Halloween costume?

"My favorite Halloween costume was a ninja perfectly impersonating myself."

Josh Phillips Freshman

"My favorite Halloween costume was Robin Hood. "Fights and everything.""

Josh Drake Sophomore

"Last year I was Michael Vick. I had a little stuffed animal dog with handcuffs."

Derek Young Junior

QUESTIONS?
E-mail luchampion@liberty.edu with your questions. Check next week's edition to see if your question is featured.
On the Campaign Trail
Rally for Tom Perriello brings president to Charlottesville

LAST MINUTE CAMPAIGNING — (Above) President Obama rallied behind Democratic candidate Tom Perriello in Charlottesville Friday. (Above Right) Tea Partiers protested across the street from Perriello's rally. (Below Right) Former U.S. Representative from Ohio Bob McEwen also attended Friday's convention.

Robert Hurt seeks voters during convocation

Taking a page from History:
Former majority speaker of the House of Representatives Newt Gingrich speaks to students about America's founding principles

TIFFANY EDWARDS
Tredwards2(@)liberty.edu

Former majority Speaker of the House and Republican presidential hopeful Newt Gingrich spoke to Liberty students, staff and faculty Wednesday, Oct. 13. Since 1988, Gingrich has visited Liberty's campus five times.

Gingrich covered topics such as the government's proper role in American life, the 2010 Senate and gubernatorial elections and American citizens growing frustration with arrogant politicians.

"We are a social Christian country, and we want to re-establish American exceptionalism, free enterprise, work ethic and the Constitutional values that made us free and great," Gingrich said. "I think that will be a key thing in the election this Tuesday, and I think it will be key two years from now.

"Gingrich said that the government should be given power by the people, not the other way around, and that the current system was leading to a socialist government structure that was destroying everything the Founding fathers stood for.

According to Gingrich, speaking at Liberty University is a "privilege.

"I had a deep personal affection for Dr. Jerry Falwell, and for what he sought to accomplish," Gingrich said. "I wanted to find a place where I talk about the most fundamental aspects that we have to decide as Americans, which is whether or not we still believe we are endowed by our Creator and whether we are exceptional... I can't imagine a better place in America than with these 12,000 young people to have that kind of conversation.

Gingrich is known for his Judeo-Christian stance on the Constitution and limited government power in America.

"America has had a series of extraordinary elections, where the country rose up and said, 'Enough,'" Gingrich said. "I don't believe that any judge should be approved who doesn't believe that our rights come from our creator and that it's not really true that our Constitution is a document founded on historic rights which predominate in and limit us."

Gingrich's last engagement at Liberty was as the keynote speaker at Commencement 2007, just days after the death of his longtime friend Dr. Falwell.

EDWARDS is the feature editor.

November amendments

Property Tax Exemptions for the Elderly and Disabled

"Shall Section 6 of Article X of the Constitution of Virginia be amended to authorize legislation that will permit localities to establish their own income or financial worth limitations for purposes of granting property tax relief for homeowners not less than 65 years of age or permanently and totally disabled?"

Property Tax Exemption for Veterans

"Shall the Constitution be amended to require the General Assembly to provide a real property tax exemption for the principal residence of a veteran, or his or her surviving spouse, if the veteran has a 100 percent service-connected, permanent, and total disability?"

Revenue Stabilization Fund

"Shall Section 8 of Article X of the Constitution of Virginia be amended to increase the permissible size of the Revenue Stabilization Fund (also known as the 'rainy day fund') from 10 percent to 15 percent of the Commonwealth's average annual tax revenues derived from income and retail sales taxes for the preceding three fiscal years?"


PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFUL — Newt Gingrich has set his sites on the 2012 presidential elections.
Professor serves Muslim people

AMANDA THOMASON
dthomason@liberty.edu

H e grew up in a small town but spent a large portion of his life overseas. He enjoys the outdoors, sports and his favorite TV shows, Friends and House. He is very cultured and social.

Having worked and served the church in North Africa and Europe, professor of intercultural studies at Liberty University, Edward Smither has devoted his life to working among Muslims. Smither was born overseas in North Africa. His parents were missionaries, so he immediately became his life’s priority, he said. “I remember being deeply affected by the poverty such that I told my family I didn’t want anything for Christmas that year,” Smither said.

For the next four years, he was unable to travel overseas, but his experience in South Africa impacted him greatly. “During this time, I met people who do not know Christ,” Smither said. “They are people who want to get married, have a family and live a good life raising kids.” Smither said. “We need to see Muslims ultimately as people who do not know Christ. More than seeing them as Muslims, I see them as people without Jesus.”

Recently, a local mosque opened in Lynchburg, and Smither was asked to get to know them. “As a family, we take it year by year, and we see them as people without a Savior.” Smither said.

Smither’s desire to connect a majority of his life overseas led to a special trip to South Africa during his freshman year at NC State. The people he encountered in South Africa had hearts that were devoted to Christ, which impacted him greatly.

For the next four years, he was unable to travel overseas, but his experience in South Africa impacted him greatly. “During this time, I met people who do not know Christ,” Smither said. “They are people who want to get married, have a family and live a good life raising kids...” Smither said. “We need to see Muslims ultimately as people who do not know Christ.”

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Finally, Smither requested that Smither would teach an introduction to Islam class as part of the undergraduate intercultural studies degree. In its beginning, a small class of six devoted students at before lunch each week eager to learn more about Muslim culture and the religion of Islam. By the second year of the class, it retained an arduous course while also adding a graduate/semester option and online version of the class.

“We must see Muslims first as real people and their lives, including taking part in their festivals, their love and burden for them only to create,” Smither said. “I prayed and sought opportunities to spend my life serving among Muslims.”

Professor Edward Smither’s experiences working among Muslims ultimately as people who do not know Christ.

We need to see Muslims ultimately as people who do not know Christ.

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We need to see Muslims ultimately as people who do not know Christ.

SMITHER
Duty fulfilled

SPC Nathan McMurray

THE REAL BLACK HAWK DOWN — Major Jeff Stuecker was part of the Battle of Mogadishu, where the U.S. used black hawk helicopters to fight against the Somali militia. The battle was later depicted in a Hollywood movie in 2001.

STUECKER continued from p. 1

The assault team made it to the first crash site and was trapped for the night because of bad weather. Stuecker witnessed the first American casualty in Somalia and had to enter Mogadishu twice. Stuecker helped to guide the lost convoy back to base and was part of the 100-vehicle-long relief team that finally rescued the soldiers trapped at the first crash site.

"Largely, people want to hear about Black Hawk Down, so for the last 10 years I have been telling people about my experiences in Black Hawk Down," Stuecker said. "I am happy to do that because God did an incredible, miraculous work in my life, and that is because of what I saw the morning after."

The day after the battle, Army Rangers and Delta Force operators had to run back to the base because of limited room in the convoy. Their task has become known as the "Megablack Mile." In the end, 19 American soldiers were killed. 73 were injured and one was taken prisoner.

Oct. 4, 1993, defined the responsibilities of our military.

"I am convinced that when God started to show me how I had something different for him, the conditions so that there will win out every time," Stuecker said. "I think you can pray for your enemies while still going to combat and while still killing them. I have been praying for years that God would throw open the doors for his son Jesus Christ to be declared in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"I am convinced that when the gospel of Jesus Christ is preached among other faiths, it will win out every time," Stuecker said. "It is perfectly morally justified. At least that is the way the Bible describes it. There are no assurances with a soldier going to combat."

"I have never had a problem with a soldier being a Christian, going to war and potentially killing someone," Stuecker said. "I think it is perfectly morally justified. I believe that the Bible describes it. There are no assurances with a soldier going to combat."

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"I have never had a problem with a soldier being a Christian, going to war and potentially killing someone," Stuecker said. "I think it is perfectly morally justified. I believe that the Bible describes it. There are no assurances with a soldier going to combat."
The Locker room was tense and silent at each play's restart faced about the upcoming game. In the middle of all this David Sills the world's greatest eighth grade quarterback.

On a college campus, the excitement of a high school football game under Friday night lights is forgotten in the wake of Saturday's college games. For the students of Liberty Christian Academy (LCA) however, Friday foot-
ball is something they relish almost every weekend. This football team plays at magnificient Williams Stadium and lights illuminate Liberty Mountain.

This weekend the once little-known Red Lion Chris-
tan Academy football team of Bear, Del. stepped out into the field against the LCA Bulldogs.

A decade ago, the Red Lion football program did not exist. The programs first few years were fraught with losing seasons, and single-war seasons were common. Now Red Lion's football team is quickly growing in prestige and national recognition because of the talent of one player. Fans have something to finally get excited about.

This season, the number 10 is reserved for only the best players in soccer. Senior captain Maria Owen was honored Friday for her leadership. Owens scored the game winning goal against Presbyterian to give the Flames their win.

The Lady Flames had good looks in the first half but couldn't capitalize until the second half but couldn't capitalize until the end of the game. Coach Jessica Han was proud of their fight throughout the entire game.

"It was a special night because of senior night, and I know the girls were so excited to play together," Han said. "We always talk about being a family with our team and standing together and playing unified which was displayed tonight.

The Lady Flames continued to attack despite missing opportunities to score.

"We preserved and fought and had to push through to get that goal," Owen said. "The attack was perfect on the goal."

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The Flmies Foot-
tball team had a con-
ference road win against Presbytery-
ian Saturday. Check out the highlights on B2.

Ever wonder the difference between NCAA Sports and Club Sports on campus? Peter Sawyer has the story on B2.

The Skiing and Snowboarding team held its tryouts Sat-
urdays. Check out the profile on B4.

The Flames will play Coastal Carolina in the Big south Tournament on Thursday Nov. 4 against Coastal Carolina.

"How we are playing right now is where we need to be," Han said. "We can continue to improve and I think we will have room for our best game."

The Lady Flames are familiar Coastal's squad.

The No. 6 Lady Flames will begin their season in the Big south Tournament on Thursday Nov. 4 against Coastal Carolina.

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Men's Figure Skating
Men's Archery
Men's Division 2 Hockey
Men's Division 1 Hockey
Men's Ultimate Frisbee
Men's Gymnastics
Men's Track and Field
Men's Tennis
Men's Football
Men's Baseball

Visit the Flight Attendant Training Group booth in the DeMoss breezeway Friday, November 5th or stop by the Aviation Department in Applied Science room 102.
"Blow off our backs will be a relief," said Owen. "Having that target on our backs, this year."

"We have the ability to go all the way," Owen said. "It's not going to be made for the 6th ranked team and I know we can win.

Owen said. "Having that target on our backs."

"Our is not going to be ready for the 6th ranked team and I know we can win."

"I have a kid now who is better than all of them and he is in Delaware. You have to take a look at him," Clarkson said in an ESPN interview. "It was this phone call that would ultimately change the course of Sills' life."

"I'm not really a money-driven person," Sills' father continued when asked about the price of his son's years of training. "I can help [my children] achieve their goals, then why not? This is a dream come true for him; if I can help [my children] achieve their goals, then why not?"

"I have got a kid now who is better than all of them and he is in Delaware. You have to take a look at him," Clarkson said in an ESPN interview. "I have got a kid now who is better than all of them and he is in Delaware. You have to take a look at him," Clarkson said in an ESPN interview.

"If any other school had asked him to do this...I'm not really a money-driven person," Sills' father continued when asked about the price of his son's years of training. "I can help [my children] achieve their goals, then why not? This is a dream come true for him; if I can help [my children] achieve their goals, then why not?"
Hittin’ the slopes for team tryouts

DERRICK BATTLE
dbattle@liberty.edu

Since opening the new Snowflex ski and snowboarding complex last year, Liberty University has attracted a new brand of athletes from around the country. Founders of the Liberty Ski and Snowboard club team, Will Scheren and Eric Hegreness held tryouts and selected six skiers and snowboarders around the campus Oct. 30.

Both coaches already have a plan to 10 or 12 slots and snowboarders they want on the team.

“We’ve been watching all year long so we have a pretty good idea already of what’s going to be on the team. Tryouts were based on a combination of how they did what we’ve seen from them and how quickly they can progress,” Scheren said.

Some riders are returning with talent and notoriety. Scheren was featured in a photo from Snowboarder Magazine, and fellow snowboarder Miles Stark acquired a sponsor from his impressive resume, according to Hegreness.

The team is in its Southeast Conference, which the United States Collegiate Ski and Snowboard Association (USCSA), Liberty hopes to invite to add prestigious universities to compete against and sharpen their competition. Skiing and snowboarding coaches Hegreness and Scheren are not only coaching the numbers of the Liberty team, but they also are steering the collegiate series for the Southeast Conference.

“We’ve been going out to schools and recruiting (for) them to compete. The University of Maryland already has signed up with us as well as Virginia Tech and Radford and Lynchburg College,” Hegreness said.

The team travels across the US, competing against other USCSA schools.

“Under the USCSA we travel to different resorts around the country. We use our events and make our own college series. We’re pulling out the winners from all the riders and compare them,” Hegreness said.

In 2009, Liberty riders qualified for nationals, but were not able to travel to Colorado to compete. “This year we hope to get those riders out to Colorado so they will be able to compete against the best riders in the US,” Hegreness said.

Due to the early success of the club, Liberty will open the doors to the public.

“They will be sponsored by Liberty authors so we will be wearing the Liberty gear, and even if they ride out they will be able to under Liberty funding,” Scheren said.

The coaches run the series and goal is to win the Appalachian series, and gradually advance to higher peak throughout the season.

“We pretty much want to win the Appalachian series every discipline. With the teams that are going, it should be manageable goal, but our main focus is to attract attention for the ski team, expand the series and get more colleges involved,” Hegreness said.

The big picture is for the riders to receive notice on the national level.

“Being that we are a club sport, we don’t get the grants and scholarships, but the gains are very competitive with college levels. So that’s how we try to get them in the spotlight,” Scheren said.

It is one of the clubs for the future, the coaches are looking forward to hearing about all of their goals this season with the talent and determination of rider and coach alike.

• BATTLE is a sports reporter.

Outdoor Report: Hunting

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It is 5 a.m. The sun has not risen over the mountains. The forest is quiet. A hunter sets for a tree stand, braving the cold for a possible adrenaline rush. The hunter could sit in his stand for hours and never be empty handed. But the deer from humanity is always on the run.

With the beginning of fall comes the much-anticipated hunting season. For those interested in hunting, dates and regulations for the state of Virginia are important to keep in mind.

Dates
- Seasonal Early Archery Season is going on from now until Nov. 12. Late Archery Season begins Nov. 29 and continues to Dec. 22.
- Early Muzzleloader Season and Deer Hunting begins Oct. 8 and continues to Nov. 12.
- Late Muzzleloader Season and Deer Hunting begins Dec. 11 through Jan. 1.
- For Permits Deer Season dates for the counties and surrounding areas including the City of Lynchburg can be found at www.dgif.virginia.gov.

Regulations
- A license must be in the possession of the hunter in order to hunt or trap in the state of Virginia.
- A license can be obtained online at www.dgif.virginia.gov, at a local Circuit Court or at hundreds of license agents around the state (including Walmart) or by phone at 1-866-721-8991.
- Classes for first-time hunters are required by the state of Virginia and must be taken before a license is purchased. Basic Hunter Education will be offered at the Waterlick Moose Lodge in Lynchburg on Nov. 5 and 6. Call 434-525-7522 to register.
- Fees and other licensing regulations can be found online.

It is 4:30 a.m. Before the hunter leaves his house, he grooms his rifle, muzzleloader and checks the date to ensure his hunting season gets off to the right start.

• MARVEL is the sports editor.
Selfless Sacrifices: Ed Peers puts family first

Single father of 11 honored by Liberty's Parent Association

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Ed Peers sat the table with his third-born Emily Peers at his right, his youngest son Andrew on his left, and six more of his children surrounding them at the table. The Peers family traveled from Pennsylvania to Liberty for the Family Weekend Chancellor’s Dinner, where Ed Peers would be awarded the 2010 Outstanding Parent Award.

Emily Peers, whose essay about her father was chosen by judges out of 103 essays submitted by students, read her essay on stage for the guests at the Chancellor’s Dinner.

“My dad is a fun, loving single father of 11 children, an excellent spiritual role model, and has made many selfless sacrifices for my siblings and me. My dad has cared for my 10 siblings and me since my mom passed away in 2004 from a rare bile duct/liver cancer,” Emily Peers said in her essay.

Ed Peers, a civil engineer, raised his 11 children on his own after his wife Gale passed away six years ago. According to Ed Peers, he has learned many things from raising a large family.

“Make sure you know where the permanent makers are, and don’t sweat the little things. If it can be cleaned up, it’s not the end of the world, and if it can’t, it can be replaced,” Ed Peers said.

“Ultimately it’s the memories you make and the interactions you have,” Ed Peers tries to teach his children the characteristics his wife lived throughout her life.

“They were a giving person. I try to teach them to always think of others first,” Ed Peers said.

Ed Peers’ family life before his wife’s death was chaotic, but loving. “We would spend a lot of time together, and enjoying every minute,” Ed Peers said. “Gale was probably the best person I have ever met, and also my best friend.”

Emily Peers said that her father does his best to be there for his family both spiritually and physically, and works to teach his children many life lessons.

“Some of the most memorable lessons I have learned from my dad would be about being respectful and treating others the way you would like to be treated. Growing up my dad and mom would not tolerate disrespect or arguing,” Emily Peers said.

Ed Peers was honored by the Parent Association as the Outstanding Parent of 2010, and Emily Peers was awarded a $1,000 scholarship.

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Twins give back to Operation Christmas Child

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Students from Jamaica received shoeboxes filled with 'Christmas in a shoebox' gifts. "Our friends were so happy to receive the shoeboxes!" Sherika Moss said. "They remembered receiving the gift boxes when we were living in Jamaica, and they were so happy to receive more."

"I would encourage everyone to participate in Operation Christmas Child," Shanika Moss said. "The shoeboxes can be a way for students to give to others in need."

"These little gifts can show children that there is someone out there who cares about them," Sherika said. "It made a difference in our lives and that God loves us too and that He cares about us." Students should take the gift box to a child in need and make a difference.

For more information, visit www.samaritanspurse.org.
Internships open doors for students to begin careers

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Sea World and Johns Hopkins have at least one thing in common — they both selected Liberty students for their highly competitive internship programs. Jared Murdoch, a senior majoring in biology with a specialization in molecular biology, conducted research at the Asthma and Allergy Center at Johns Hopkins. Breanna Rock, a junior majoring as general biology with minors in psychology and chemistry, spent her summer as a lifeguard at Sea World.

"The interactions that our students have in the lab classes and on research projects side-by-side with faculty really give them an edge," Dr. David DeWitt, chair of biology and chemistry at Liberty, said. "Our students don't just compute, but also perform well."

DeWitt said that the two students are the first from Liberty to secure internships with these prestigious institutions.

"It reinforces the quality of our program," DeWitt said. "I hope that more of our students will reach for those very competitive positions because I think they are capable."

Murdoch and Rock explained how they found their internships, why they were chosen and what they learned from their experiences.

How did you find your internship? Murdoch: I found it by a Google search. I used key phrases and looked at the various institutions that offered programs and searched for those that would help us later in our careers.

Rock: Since I was very young, I have wanted to work at SeaWorld as a killer whale trainer at Shamu Stadium. I periodically check SeaWorld’s website for job openings. I found the one for this internship on SeaWorld’s Career web page. I applied for the internship because I hoped to get my foot in the door with SeaWorld Parks and Entertainment.

Were you nervous about it being competitive? Murdoch: I was terrified. All of the programs are extremely competitive and having an attitude that understood this, as well as having faith that God had placed me on this path for his purpose, made it a little easier to handle.

Rock: I honestly did not realize the scope of the competition to win this internship when I applied. After beginning the internship, I was informed that I was one of 1,400 applicants chosen from more than 225 applicants.

What did your internship consist of? Murdoch: My research focused on skeletal muscle atrophy in the context of acute lung injury or ALI (when muscle weakens due to a serious lung injury). We studied the molecular mechanism behind this occurrence and were able to attribute it to a particular protein (in other words, a protein that signals muscle deterioration when dealing with ALI).

Rock: During my internship, I worked from June to August as a lifeguard at Aquatica, SeaWorld’s water park, between 36 and 44 hours a week running rides and keeping guests safe. Interns were required to attend four classes taught by SeaWorld’s employees on how to act in a professional manner, present ourselves well on paper and in person and how to act on the job. We were also required to attend three behind-the-scenes tours of SeaWorld’s marine habitats, such as aquarium, marine mammal, discovery Cove.

What are you hoping to do in the future (career-wise) and how will your internship play into achieving your goals? Murdoch: I plan to attend medical school in the fall of 2012, but the greatest part of the program played career-wise was the opportunity to work at Johns Hopkins University for the next 18 months. I’ve established some connections there that will hopefully aid me when it comes time to apply to medical school. Johns Hopkins is arguably the best medical institute in the world. Knowing that I can actually apply the research towards patients and know that what I did may have a lasting impact is really cool.

Rock: I learned how to market myself. We were encouraged to put ourselves into the working community and make connections that would help us later in our careers. God is currently changing my heart in include other avenues than just SeaWorld, but I do hope someday I will get the opportunity to work with killer whales. I hope by participating in this internship that I will have a better possibility of being chosen for a job at SeaWorld.

SEILKOP is a feature reporter.
The Tower Theater tackles smaller production with plenty of power

The story follows college student Sunny Freitag and her family during her Christmas break as her aunt and cousin obsess over the details of German-Jewish society's biggest event of the year, The Last Night of Ballyhoo, in 1939 Atlanta, Ga.

Sunny has no desire to attend the country club event, and her cousin Lala is simultaneously trying to land an escort to the dance and go see "Gone With the Wind," which just debuted. Meanwhile, her uncle Adolph brings home a handsome young Russian Jew from New York, Joe Farkas, who has recently started working at the family's mattress-selling business. Lala tries to get Joe to take her to Ballyhoo as her escort, but he ignores her advances and instead asks Sunny to attend the dance. Sunny accepts, and the date eventually leads to Sunny confronting her own bias against her Jewish heritage. In the meantime, Lala battles her jealousy of Sunny and tries to woo a rich suitor, Sylvan "Peachy" Weil. Lala's mother, Boo, confronts her brother Adolph over his preference of Sunny over Lala as well as his exclusion of Boo from the family business, which Boo feels would prosper if she were allowed to participate.

The play's light-hearted tone addresses the issues of intra-ethnic bias, which was prevalent during World War II. The Freitag family boldly displays a Christmas tree in their living room, and Sunny's mother and aunt refer to Eastern European Jews as "the other kind."

The Last Night of Ballyhoo was one of three plays written by playwright Alfred Uhry that focus on Jewish life in the South. The play was first performed during the summer Olympics of 1996 in Atlanta, and was later moved to Broadway where it won a Tony award, according to director Professor Neal Brasher.

"I have enjoyed working on the other Uhry play and this one as well. He writes vivid colorful characters that are fun to direct and play," Brasher said. "Also, this production features a cast of seven actors, five of which have never performed on the Liberty stage. It’s always exciting to work with these new players and see what they will bring to our season."

The Last Night of Ballyhoo opened on Oct. 29 and will only run until Nov. 6. Ticket information is available on the Liberty Theater Arts website, which can be found through the Liberty Splash page.

EDWARDS is the feature editor.