An accident involving a train and five Liberty University students this past weekend in Lynchburg, Va., could be among the tragic events that janitors have experienced due to the failure of their inexperience to carry the load of responsibilities. The incident occurred on the night of the accident, and although the students involved were not injured, the aftermath could have been a lot worse. The train, heading north on the James River, collided with a train trestle that towers over the river, spanning 1800 feet. The result was the death of a student and left one in critical condition, while the other three incurred minor injuries.

Hannah Williams, 18, was her first friend on the train crash that towers over the James River. She managed to reach the scene of the accident, a train, and was rescued from Lynchburg. She now faces the challenge of sorting out the lives of the other students who were involved in the accident.

The planning commission ordered the first inspection, which was just abysmal. Nelson said. Under the previous proposal, a hearing could be held before a magistrate, which is to be more permanent. The law requires for more protection of the magistrate's right, which he said, is a violation of rights and attended the public hearing. Under an inspection, the agent would be on the initial plan set forth by the commission, and it is the author of the zoning regulation that is currently in place. Under the previous proposal, there were no changes to an inspection, and it is the author of the zoning regulation that is currently in place.

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CiCi’s to help Arnold Air Society

Tashita Cassidy

CiCi’s Pizza will open its doors to the Arnold Air Society on Dec. 6 to help the organization raise funds for its projects throughout the year.

According to CiCi’s Pizza manager Trigg Swift, CiCi’s has agreed to donate 10 percent of the check of every person who mentions that they are there to support the Arnold Air Society to the organization. Also, Liberty University students who show their flame pass will receive a free drink with their purchase, according to the Liberty University website.

The Arnold Air Society is a facet of the Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) and was recognized in 1941, according to the society’s website. The Arnold Air Society primarily moves to encourage military, welfare and recreation for air force ROTC cadets and to better the community, according to Kyle Moore, a member of the group and the cadet in charge of the CiCi’s Pizza fundraiser.

Swift said CiCi’s Pizza decided to partner with the Arnold Air Society immediately after Moore approached them. CiCi’s Pizza partners with multiple organizations in the Lynchburg community throughout the year for caring reasons, Swift said.

“It’s part of being in the community and letting people know we’re here,” Swift said. “We’re just doing our civic duty.”

According to Swift, other organizations have parked the tables at CiCi’s Pizza with Liberty students looking to support. “When Cause lives come in, it’s mostly Liberty students that come in,” Swift said.

FUNDRAISER — Arnold Air Society members enjoy their dinner at CiCi’s Pizza, said.

The Arnold Air Society partnered with CiCi’s Pizza earlier in the year, but the organization did not get the response it was expecting, according to Moore.

According to Moore, the financial management of the air force ROTC programs at Liberty, the University of Virginia and James Madison University appointed him as a representative of the Arnold Air Society for Liberty. He was contacted earlier in the year to try to do a fundraiser and began asking around the Liberty community for support. Moore said that when he walked into CiCi’s Pizza and asked if they did a fundraiser, they were more than willing to help.

The Arnold Air Society uses the funds it receives to continue their service projects to help members become more effective air force officers, Moore said.

According to Moore, so far this year the Arnold Air Society has provided support for Meals on Wheels, completed service projects at an elementary school near the University of Virginia, held a 24-hour memorial run for the Sept. 11 tragedy and held a 24-hour vigil for Veterans Day for purposes of war and those soldiers missing in action.

“Being a member of the Arnold Air Society, the initiation process really helps you for field training and your future. They help you be more confident in your skills,” Moore said.

CiCi’s is the news edition.

Parking update

Katherine Lacaze

In response to complaints from students and faculty regarding alleged parking guidelines on campus, the Liberty University administration is planning a campus-wide survey to determine the current state of parking in a more specific way.

“As a result of this student feedback and in anticipation of ongoing campus construction projects, Liberty University will be implementing the following changes, the LUPOD announced last week.

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CiCi’s is the news edition.

Bridge open for pedestrians

Tasia Adams-Olaitan

According to the News and Advance, an earlier traffic study revealed that 700 pedestrians crossed Wards Road in one day. Now, the public can walk across Wards Road with less chance of being hit by in the way of vehicles.

The 104-foot bridge was officially completed last month. It is 8 feet wide and is handicapped accessible. It can also accommodate bicycles and has enough room for two-way foot traffic.

The pedestrian bridge was not only a project of Liberty University. The City of Lynchburg was also involved. According to the News and Advance, the city will be responsible for capital repairs and will be in charge of day-to-day maintenance, Falwell said.

Now that the bridge is open, the city and the university are making sure that students will longer cross Wards Road by foot.

“The City of Lynchburg will be building a fence in the median step to prevent crossings at other locations,” Falwell said.

Along with the bridge, Liberty University is using another project to make Wards Road even more accessible for students. Underground tunnel behind the Vines Center is currently under construction. However, Falwell said the tunnel and bridge serve different purposes.

“The tunnel will allow passage from Library to the shop- ping center on the west side of Route 29, which includes Panza’s Bistro, Sherry’s Bistro,” Falwell said. “The bridge will allow passage from the west side of Route 29 to the east side of Route 29 which includes Walmart and Target.”

CiCi’s is the news edition.
Local farm grows Christmas trees

Green Needles Christmas Tree Farm sells Fraser firs, white pine and Norway spruce for holiday decorating

Keslie Knowles
kknowles@liberty.edu

“Green Needles is nestled high in the mountains of Coleman Falls, Va., about 30 minutes from Liberty’s campus. Perdew and his family open their Christmas tree farm to those in search of the perfect Fraser Christmas tree. Green Needles Christmas Tree Farm is rated high in the mountains of Coleman Falls, Va., off US 501 N., about 30 minutes from Liberty University. Perdew and his wife, Debbie, operate the farm with the help of some of their eight children, four of whom are Liberty University graduates. Their son Mark, 19, is currently a sophomore at Liberty. He works there every weekend to help put his college tuition. ‘Whenever people come, I try to tell them where to go. I give them a saw so they can cut down a tree, or else I cut it down for them,’ he explained.

Green Needles, a member of the Virginia Christmas Tree Growers Association, currently grows over 3,000 Christmas trees that spread over 44 acres. Perdew said he sells around 300 Christmas trees per season. The farm has been operated by three different families since it was first started 40 years ago. Out of those 40 years, the Perdew family has operated and lived on the farm for six, once moving there from Maryland. During the off-season, the family grows and sells other trees, shrubs and cut flowers. The farm sells three Christmas tree varieties: White pine, Norway spruce and pre-cut Fraser firs.

‘We can’t grow the Fraser Firs because they require a higher elevation to grow, so we buy those locally and bring them in,’ Perdew said. ‘The different types are totally different in the style and form of the tree, and it’s really a performance. Fifty percent of the customers buy the white pine, and 50 percent buy the Fraser Firs.’

Prices of the trees range from $42 to $99, the Fraser firs being the most expensive. The trees, according to Perdew, take anywhere from eight to 15 years to mature. This means that the trees being sold have been there longer than the family currently growing them. Perdew pointed to a neat row of trees that towered over the rest, blending with the surrounding forest.

‘Those trees over there, those giant trees! Those were Christmas trees,’ he explained.

In addition to Christmas trees, Green Needles also sells homemade wreaths, which are constructed by Jon Perdew and some of his children. The family displays the wreaths on their front porch for customers to view. Perdew also sells wreaths at the Lynchburg Farmer’s Market on Wednesdays.

Visitors to the farm can sip free hot chocolate while they comb the rows of trees, while children are also able to play on a tire swing or ride a pony. The pony rides are operated by the Perdews’ 23-year-old son.

Green Needles Christmas Tree Farm is located at 117-5 Free Lane, Coleman Falls, Va. From November 25 until December 24, the farm will be open Fridays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. ‘But if someone needs to go out during the week, they just give me a call and I’ll meet them,’ Perdew added.

Perdew can be contacted at 434-299-8593 or at jonperdew@aol.com.

KNOWLES is a news reporter.
Friend or foe Christmas campaign

Christmas or Holiday? It can be so confusing around Christmas time. Now stores cheerfully greet you with “Merry Christmas,” supporting the traditional Christmas holiday of Santa Claus and baby Jesus, while other stores choose a more general greeting by saying “Happy Holidays.”

Liberty Counsel, a Christian nonprofit organization, is beginning its ninth annual “Favored or Foe Christmas Campaign,” prompting to be a friend to these businesses that support Christmas and a foe to those who counter it, according to Liberty Counsel’s press release.

Founder and Chairman of Liberty Counsel Matthew Staver does not believe that any business can stay neutral when it comes to Christmas. “Christmas is a state and federal holiday and is the only holiday celebrated around the world in the same day,” Staver said. “A company cannot seek profit off of Christmas and then pretend like it does not exist.”

For this reason, Liberty Counsel has compiled a “Naughty and Nice List” of almost 60 businesses, Staver said. Each business campaigned under the “Naughty” list if they consider Christmas and under “nice” if they encourage it. These reports mainly come from customers who report business disrespect to Liberty Counsel, said Staver. Most of the businesses on the list are considered “nice,” Staver, each reference has an example of how the business has regarded Christmas to its customers on its Liberty Counsel’s official website.

A few years ago Wal-Mart had holiday trees, not Christmas trees, and it federalized holidays by returning a greeting of Merry Christmas when the customer initiated it. After Liberty Counsel began their Naughty and Nice List, the following year Wal-Mart stated that it would mention Christmas “early and often” and did according to Staver.

“Naughty and Nice List” is an online shopping guide to the businesses that believe and feel in the Christmas spirit. However, these reports mainly come from customers who consider Christmas a holiday and “happy holidays” a reflection of secularism.

A complete list of the businesses that support Christmas and those that do not can be found at LibertyChampion.com.

Over $200 a Month!

You Could Earn

$80 This Week!

New donor fees have increased.

General Requirements for Donating Plasma:

18-65 Years of Age
Valid Picture ID
Be in Good Health
Proof of Social Security Number
Proof of Current Residence Postmarked

WILLIAMS continued from AI

University in the fall of 2011. She went to high school at Heritage Christian School when she served as the Student Body President her senior year and participated in many places, according to an obituary for Hannah on the Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home website.

According to a source in the Salmon Herald, the headmaster of Grace Christian school, “She was witty and delightful and a strong Christian.” She was an excellent student academically, she was interested in drama. She was an advanced writer and speaker. She had won some awards because of her writing and speaking skills.”

As a student she majored in government and journalism and was a big supporter of the Student Government Association. She was part of a group of students from Liberty who traveled to New York to help during the tragic September 11th disaster.

On Friday, Nov. 18, Chancellor Jerry Felker issued a statement that addressed the death of Williams.

“Hannah Williams made Liberty University proud, in my short time as a student leader,” Felker said in the statement. “Her tragic death is a great loss, not only to her family, but to our university community as well.”

As Hannah’s SLU on G-2 Evan on the Annex, Chucks had the opportunity to be a good spiritual influence in her life throughout the semester.

“We would always have good conversations and prayers together,” said SLU Chucks. “She was very encouraging. Even when I thought I was doing my best to encourage her as an SLU, she was the one that was encouraging me.”

Hannah had a strong Christian faith throughout the semester.

Chucks said that Hannah was known on the hall as outgoing, enthusiastic and involved. She participated in almost all athletic events and when it came to raising money for hall meeting, each prayer group in a specific color, Hannah wanted everyone.

“She loved getting to know people,” Chucks said. “She loved you for who you were. She didn’t care if you were the neat person or the messy person, she didn’t care if you were stuck up or supercargo, she loved you for who you were. She was very loving in her beliefs.”

A funeral was held for Hannah in her hometown in Nov., but no other details were available at the time of this writing.

“Hannah was a phenomenon,” Felker said. “She had one of the greatest signatures of the semester.”
President Barack Obama announced Oct. 21 that the U.S. would follow through with its 2008 agreement to withdraw from Iraq. Thousands of service men and women, including some Liberty University students, have already left the country for bases in Kuwait.

Ridgetown, Ontario native and Liberty senior Spc. Josh Moerman recently withdrew to Kuwait in preparation to return home. “They are pulling troops out every day now — Kuwait is overflowing with soldiers,” Moerman said. “I left about a week ago, but I am not sure when we are leaving Kuwait for the U.S. They did tell us, though, that we should be home in Virginia around Dec. 15.”

Moerman obtained U.S. citizenship at the age of eight and enlisted in the U.S. Army in August 2009. Enlisting both for the experience and to help pay for college, he chose and qualified to become a combat medic and has been deployed to Iraq since July 31.

“In October, Moerman was able to return home for two weeks. He said at the time that it had been quiet in his part of the country, “which is good for a medic, and the support and encouragement from family and Americans is great.”

Since then, Moerman said the insurgents have avoided provoking the withdrawing American troops. “Towards the end, it did not heat up as much as everyone thought,” Moerman said. “Both sides knew that as long as no one messed with each other, then we would all do our thing. For the most part, the groups that were attacking each other were doing something else.”

Once back in the U.S., Moerman will be able to return to campus life. As a military aviation major at Liberty with a minor in business, his goal is to become a commercial pilot following graduation May 2013. “I am not sure how long I am going to stay in the Army, but there is chance that I am going to try to become a medevac (medical evacuation) pilot once I graduate from LU,” he said. “I intend to be a light instructor here at LU as a stepping stone to commercial flight.”

In the meantime, however, Moerman and some 35,000 other American troops are waiting the last few weeks of an eight-year conflict with the hopes of returning home by Christmas.

ADAMS is the web editor.

Writing home

As recently as the first Gulf War, soldiers had to rely on “snail mail” to send letters home to loved ones. In 21st century conflicts, soldiers like Spc. Josh Moerman are able to communicate instantaneously with family and friends back in North America.

Liberty University senior Kelsey Hult, Moerman’s girlfriend of two and a half years, kept in touch with Moerman through Skype, Facebook and email. Hult said modern technology is a blessing, but it lacks the sentimental value of handwritten letters.

“I was bummed I didn’t get any letters from him because we were able to video chat almost every week, which was a blessing,” Hult said. “So I made him promise to write some letters and bring them home.”

When the Army sent Moerman home to visit for two weeks in October, he was able to both visit Liberty and surprise his family by showing up in person.

“During the two weeks he got to come home, he got to celebrate Canadian Thanksgiving with his family and visit his parents,” Hult said. “He also really likes liberty’s hockey games, so we made a point of going to one when he visited Liberty.”

At the war’s end, Hult is waiting for Moerman to return from Kuwait with the rest of the withdrawing American troops. “With him coming home soon, I couldn’t ask for a better Christmas present,” Hult said.

Friday, December 9
Vines Center • 11:30p
$8 advance & $10 door (2 floor seats)
A Student Activities Production

Visit liberty.edu/sa to purchase tickets
In conjunction with the Civil War Seminar scheduled for Sept. 25-27 in the Ud of 2012, a Civil War film festival also will be a part of the event. Students are encouraged to film their own Civil War videos and submit them prior to the second week of September 2012 to be judged. Eventually, the tentative list of judges includes professors from both the History and Department of Film and Media Studies, as well as the head of Brigham Young University's film department. Lewis Young. The winners of this year’s main event is “The Rise of Lee & Grant,” but students are not limited to the characters of the war. Kenny Rowlette, the director of the National Civil War Chaplin Museum, also is on hand to judge the Civil War Seminar. With the addition of the film festival, Rowlette looks forward to seeing the students’ creativity on display.

The winner of the film festival will receive home supplies. Each cash prize of $200 and $100 will be awarded to the first place and second place winners, respectively. The top two films will be shown in January as a benchmark for the film festival. Ryan Mifs “A Day in the Life” will be shown in January as a benchmark for the film festival.

The film festival will allow students to make the most of this unique opportunity, he said. “I hope to give these students a creative outlet,” Rowlette said. “I have not heard of any other university in the county hosting this type of film festival from student generated productions.”

To assist students in their videos, Rowlette has been in contact with Bright Images who has shipped civil war footage available. Additionally, those interested will have a chance to view a short film by Liberty alumni, Simmons.

LIVING HISTORY — The festival will also hope that students make the most of this unique opportunity. “I hope to give these students a creative outlet,” Rowlette said. “I have not heard of any other university in the county hosting this type of film festival from student generated productions.”

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Students will have their chance to film for a part of Civil War Seminar and take home prizes. Students who have not become involved in the film festival, Rowlette looks forward to seeing the students’ creativity on display.

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Questions and answers adapted by Ashley Billinger from an interview conducted by Andrew Claudia of 90.3 The Light.

How has the university changed since you were a student?

When I was a student, we hiked through the forest from the dorm circle and up the steep hill to class. The Vince Center had not been built and we would often slip and fall in the mud on the way to class. I complained to Dad and we finally got a stairway to the classrooms.

TALMAGE

What is the vision behind the Welcome Center?

We made a decision after construction began on the Welcome Center to greatly enhance the interior finishes. The goal is to “put our best foot forward” and create the best possible first impression with every prospective student, their families, and other visitors to campus. One of our degrees at Liberty over the years has been “if it’s Christian, it should be beautiful” and we want our visitors to experience that at the new front door of our campus. The materials required to upgrade the interior of the building were not available when construction on A9 started. Now, we can be more creative and choose materials that will enhance the appearance of the building. The project will fulfill the need for new academic buildings.

ALAN W. BECK

What can Liberty expect with the construction of the new library?

Locations have now been found for all the offices in Schilling, and as soon as Schilling is empty, demolition will start on the section of Schilling where the basketball teams now practice. Then, construction on the library will begin. The library will offer the finest design and quality of construction to Liberty students and faculty. It will be a clear statement of Liberty’s commitment to academic excellence. The automatic book retrieval system will use a robotic mechanism to deliver books to students allowing the new book collection of 50,000 volumes to be stored in 1/9 of the space required by traditional stacks. This will create more quiet study space, more group study space, and space for a food court to replace the Hunger. Dr. Carl Metz and his staff have worked with our architects and contractors to create a truly state-of-the-art plan for Liberty’s new library. The new vehicular tunnels will replace the existing angular entrance at Basics allowing trains to pass by without sounding their horns and interrupting students in the library. The library will have two levels under ground and students will be able to use the elevator to access the lower level that will house the pedestrian tunnel.

JOEL THOMAS

How is the on-campus construction regarding the tunnel progressing?

The new pedestrian tunnel is under construction. It will run from the existing railroad crossing parallel to the railroad tracks, over the new pedestrian tunnel, across the site of the old lake behind the Vince Center and on to the dorm circle. The exterior finishes are being added to the West Road side of the new pedestrian tunnel now, and the tunnel should be open to students at the beginning of the next semester.

A NEW TUNNEL

Our agreement with the railroad for the pedestrian tunnel requires that the new vehicular tunnels at Hancock Street be completed within two years. We are moving ahead to meet this deadline.
Can you explain the changes in the sports facilities?

The new baseball stadium planning has been progressing nicely. We had hoped to start construction this Fall but decided to make other changes to the area to improve the final design. For example, the outdoor track is nearing the end of its useful life and needs to be replaced. Rather than replace it in its current location around the soccer field, we decided to relocate it, probably to the other side of U.S. 30-90 across from Christians Station and below Snowdell. This allows us to expand the soccer field to the maximum NCAA size and move the field closer to the stands. That change allows us to shift the baseball stadium more to the northeast, which creates the most optimal conditions for spectators and players. This eliminates the direct sunlight that we now have at the Washington Stadium on the stands that run along the first base line. It also allows us to shift the stadium away from David's Place slightly, making it possible to re-build and expand the tennis courts without blocking the view of the students in the stands.

The shifting of the soccer field and the location of the track also creates a nice building and new parking lot on west of the new Grandstand area. We are discussing possibilities for that new area. Students may also have noticed that dirt is being removed from around the tennis courts in order to re-landscape and create a new practice field on the dome end and the highway. This dirt is to eventually build the new perimeter road and is part of a plan that our Staff Engineer, Maggie Croman, and Charlie Spencer, our Director of Construction, worked out with the Virginia Department of Transportation to beautify the cut and fill between campuses and the highway.

Architects and engineers have determined that adding an appealing seating area in the stands will be relatively inexpensive. The second deck would hang from the same ring that supports the dome smoothly, without columns that would block views in the seating below. The third row of the second deck would be at a ring level which is at the base of the dome and the second deck would extend out over the existing seating. Sight lines would work well and the upper deck would be accessed by a series of staircases around the arena.

This expansion would, however, present us from using the facility for convocation or games for years or more during construction. Moving convocation and basketball games in the new Civic Center temporarily would make the expansion of the entire Civic Center feasible. With an enhanced seating capacity, Vitalis would be a perfect solution (as only newly constructed facilities can accommodate such needs) and we could meet our convocation needs for many years to come. Likewise, a Civic Center that seats 10,000 would accommodate the needs of our basketball program well into the future and, while students might have a short bus ride to the new Civic Center, Vitalis, unlike Nexus, the new center would have easy access from Ward's Road across the new bridge that Liberty built at the airport a few years ago and it would be a short bus ride to the new Civic Center.

One of the key factors in the planning for the Civic Center was that students look forward to this facility being fully operational. The better attended women's basketball and volleyball games would be played at the Civic Center.

What is the biggest complaint you get from students?

Lately, the number one complaint by far has been parking difficulties. Liberty has far more on-campus parking available than most universities of its size but our commuter, staff, and faculty in a small town where they are generally able to drive up to and park near their offices. This creates an expectation that does not exist in larger cities but it is hard to match on a densely populated campus. Liberty is densely populated like a big city and that requires changes to change. The new Civic Center propose could be a great help. We would likely phase the 25,000-30,000 new spaces there during the day. The service would be very effective between those lots and the Campus East tunnel - a very short ride.

In the future, we have plans to build a long-term goal for the school as far as grounds. If this, indeed, this is the way we can do more with the expansion of the Civic Center.

How are the plans for the Civic Center advancing?

Gordon's studies on the new Civic Center are finding that the Longwood community west of the new lake and field hockey fields at the edge of Campus East. Liberty is west of the Civic Center for basketball games, concerts and other events.

The new Civic Center, which Vitalis, the new center would have easy access from Ward's Road across the new bridge that Liberty built at the airport a few years ago and it would be a short bus ride to the new Civic Center.

We have been asked for years to consider not allowing freshmen to bring cars to campus. Liberty is proud that freshmen are allowed to bring cars to school as we did not want to restrict that privilege. We did, however, decide to require certain resident student parking (mostly lower classmen) to be assigned to those students to lots that are farther from classroom buildings. This will create more spaces for faculty and carry students that are served by regular bus service. We are also adding 100 new parking spaces on campus by January. The new plan is not perfect and we will continue to make adjustments. Next Fall, we may assign commuters to certain lots and price the lots according to location and popularity.

With the new gun policy on campus, what would you say to parents to ensure that this is still a safe environment?

I am a Liberty University parent and I feel that students are much safer now that some faculty and staff will be carrying concealed weapons in our buildings. If a shooting occurred like the one at Virginia Tech, one of our faculty or staff members might be able to intervene. I honestly believe that, if a few responsible people (maybe even just the police and fire) had been carrying guns in the airplane that crashed into the World Trade Center, that tragedy could have been averted.
Q&A with the Chancellor

Is there a long-term goal for the school as far as growth?

The top image is of the construction of the new kinesiology department. Above left is the new bridge over Wards Road. Above right is the construction behind Vines.

Below, is a rendering of the university’s first board room to be located within the Hancock Welcome Center. Below is the construction located behind South Campus.

What is one criticism of the school that you would say is unfair?

If you could say one thing to a high school student that would convince them to come to Liberty, what would it be?

If you took the opportunity to reiterate to the analyst how unique Liberty’s mission among Christian colleges and universities has always been, I told him: The colleges you referenced in this article all were founded with the expectation that they would remain small and would provide a very focused educational experience for their students. Liberty, on the other hand, was founded with the goal of becoming a world-class university for evangelical Christian young people. We believe the huge student demand that we are enjoying at Liberty while other Christian colleges seem to be declining is evidence that there is a real need for an evangelical Christian equivalent of Notre Dame or Brigham Young.

By distinguishing itself as the only evangelical Christian university that provides a wide variety of academic offerings, NCAA Division I athletics, a great number of student activities and world-class facilities, Liberty has removed itself from the fierce competition for students faced by many smaller Christian colleges who all offer very similar academic programs and student experiences. In addition, being a larger university with diverse course offerings has resulted in Liberty University attracting students of other faiths that share similar values.

I also wanted to note that, when you asked me recently why so many universities that were founded with Christian missions similar to Liberty’s had strayed from their missions over time, I replied that tenure was the major cause of the shift. I was reminded recently of another major factor that has historically caused Christian universities to change course and that factor has been a tendency in Christian colleges to bow to the pressure of donors in order to receive needed contributions.

Many Christian colleges have allowed donors to become board members even when those donors do not share the Christian values of the institution and those donors have used the promise of donations to influence other board members to change the doctrinal foundation of the institutions.

I believe that Liberty’s uniqueness in being funded by a business plan rather than by donors would insulate it from similar donor pressure and will allow us to retain our Christian foundations. I believe that if Liberty continues to be good stewards of the resources God has provided to us, the resulting financial strength will give us the ability to resist pressures to change our mission.

The national economy will affect how long it takes Liberty to reach that enrollment goal. I intend to watch national trends closely as we grow and adjust as necessary so that we do not overbuild or build too quickly.

What is one criticism of the school that you would say is unfair?

At this holiday season, I think we need to reflect on how blessed we are at Liberty. God has blessed this school in ways that have never been seen before.

One of our professors, Dr. Karen Prior, recently sent me a link to an article quoting one of the national rating agencies about the difficulties many smaller Christian colleges in the U.S. are experiencing recruiting new students. The professor had no idea that the senior rating analyst quoted in that article had been on campus to discuss re-evaluating Liberty’s credit rating.

The timing of Dr. Prior forwarding me the article was quite remarkable since that same rating agency was and is in the midst of re-evaluating Liberty’s credit rating.

I took the opportunity to reiterate to the analyst how unique Liberty’s mission among Christian colleges and universities has always been. I told him: The colleges you referenced in this article all were founded with the expectation that they would remain small and would provide a very focused educational experience for their students. Liberty, on the other hand, was founded with the goal of becoming a world-class university for evangelical Christian young people. We believe the huge student demand that we are enjoying at Liberty while other Christian colleges seem to be declining is evidence that there is a real need for an evangelical Christian equivalent of Notre Dame or Brigham Young.

By distinguishing itself as the only evangelical Christian university that provides a wide variety of academic offerings, NCAA Division I athletics, a great number of student activities and world-class facilities, Liberty has removed itself from the fierce competition for students faced by many smaller Christian colleges who all offer very similar academic programs and student experiences. In addition, being a larger university with diverse course offerings has resulted in Liberty University attracting students of other faiths that share similar values.

I also wanted to note that, when you asked me recently why so many universities that were founded with Christian missions similar to Liberty’s had strayed from their missions over time, I replied that tenure was the major cause of the shift. I was reminded recently of another major factor that has historically caused Christian universities to change course and that factor has been a tendency in Christian colleges to bow to the pressure of donors in order to receive needed contributions.

Many Christian colleges have allowed donors to become board members even when those donors do not share the Christian values of the institution and those donors have used the promise of donations to influence other board members to change the doctrinal foundation of the institutions.

I believe that Liberty’s uniqueness in being funded by a business plan rather than by donors would insulate it from similar donor pressure and will allow us to retain our Christian foundations. I believe that if Liberty continues to be good stewards of the resources God has provided to us, the resulting financial strength will give us the ability to resist pressures to change our mission.

The national economy will affect how long it takes Liberty to reach that enrollment goal. I intend to watch national trends closely as we grow and adjust as necessary so that we do not overbuild or build too quickly.
SEMESTER IN FAST FORWARD

1. Uprising concert at Constant
2. Homecoming football game
3. Football team show support at fourth quarter play
4. Clenney Kipp speaks on relationships at Compass Church
5. Sold out David Crowder concert during CSIW weekend
6. David Crowder Band performs at the 7 Tour
7. Sparky shows Liberty spirit
8. Spiritual Emphasis Week across campus
9. Christmas at the Liberty monogram
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Volleyball edged by Penn State

Kyle Harvey/kliberty.edu

As an unranked team from a private school in Virginia traveling to Big-10 powerhouse Pennsylvania State University, the odds were certainly stacked against Liberty University. PSU's current Friday's match ranked No. 8 in the nation, a program which has won the national title four years running.

"They earned their right to be here. I want to recognize Liberty for a terrific season," Penn State head coach Russ Rose said.

"The scouting report said that they were going to play hard and with a lot of pride. I think they did as they had to do to get ready for the weekend. They earned their right to be here and they did what they needed. They are keeping their high expectations on the line, the Lady Flames marched into University Park, Pa. and did their best to succeed.

Juniour Loren Thomas put down six kills. Senior libero Kelly Haseman put on a memorable performance with a career high 20 digs against the Lady Panthers which had a tough 62-58 loss against the Lady Flames.

Sophomore Lillie Happel took the most set points with 14 assists.

"On the men's side we just (wanted) to keep dominating the Coastal Carolina Invitational in January and the Hokie Invitational in January and doing this a lot of years," Tolsma said. "As far as the season goes, Tolsma believes that his team this year has improved in more than just athleticism.

"The first thing you always have to do is put the season in perspective. Though we didn't accomplish our specific goal of winning the conference championship, we still had a successful season," Rose said, citing the team's ability to "right the ship after a 1-3 start to put themselves in a position to win the conference in their senior season clash versus Stony Brook.

As the final seconds disappeared off the clock in Liberty University's conference championship match against Stony Brook, the Flames saw their fifth consecutive Big South Championship, the golden ticket to the post-season, disappear with them in their 3-1 defeat. To head coach Darcy Ruco, this loss has become a stepping stone to the future, a lit-erary book: in the grand scheme of the Flames' football program. Already, the team's new slogan "Earn the right to win" has been posted throughout the football complex.

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As a senior class leaves, Rocco focuses on future

Andrew Woolfolk
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The Flames return to the Furnace after a chilly sixth straight loss

Tyler Earles
Liberty Flames

Coming off of four consecutive losses and a 5-6 start to the season, the Flames’ men’s basketball team is looking to bounce back on the road against defending Big South regular-season champion Coastal Carolina on Dec. 3. Before coming home to face UNC-Wilmington the day before, the Flames continue their quest for a signature win.

In a season that was delayed by injury before the first tipoff, coach Karly had his hands full trying to perfect a roster that can work for the players that have available.

During previous practices, the Flames lost during the second half. "The post,” Brown, a 6’4” guard and a transfer from junior college last season, was also lost for the year. Brown led the team in rebounds last season and his presence in the paint has been sorely missed. “We’ve taken some steps back with the injuries, but we’re slowly progressing and getting better,” Laye said. "This has been a rough stretch for our team but we’re working hard in practice to keep getting better.”

Though there is no certain answer, there are a couple of areas that it is rather obvious that the Flames need to see improvement.

BASKETBALL continued from B1

Overall Defense: "Much like the Nebraska game, it is a challenge for us, but we have a new season ahead of us as we head into conference play,” Laye said. However the team fares against Coastal Carolina, it is important for the fans to continue to support the team.

We’ve had some great, enthusiastic support from the students here. It will be good to get back home and see some familiar faces in the stands,” Laye said. UNC-Wilmington has suffered for consecutive losses themselves so maybe they are the perfect matchup for the Flames to turn things around.

CLOSE CONTEST — Shooting only 34 percent from the field, the Lady Flames were able to keep it close with James Madison. The Flames lost to the Dukes 62-58.

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Overall: B-

Liberty excused great in the half court which led to easy shots in the paint. However, plenty of missed layups was the teams downfall.

Guards: B+

Devon Brown and Reagyn Miller were aggressive attacking JMU’s defense. Accounting for 12 total rebounds, Catherine Kearney and Avery Worley contributed points. Worley led the team with 18 points.

Centers: B-

"The Penn State University has been through a lot and I have the opportunity to bring two teams together in this game and pray for this university and what is going on in the state. It would be hard for us to walk out here and see an advantage of the opportunity. Our captains ask every team we play to pray at the end of the game, and it is up to them if they come or not. Some teams come and some don’t, but tonight, Penn State came.

One of their girls asked if we wanted to pray with them and we said yes. Their coach said a few words. It was really nice of them to have us in their service. No pray with the other team, either.”

"Much like the Nebraska game, it is a great opportunity for some healing in the Penn State family. We appreciate Liberty’s hospitality in that area,” Bow said.

HARVEY is a sports reporter.

VOLLEYBALL continued from B1

Their win was really good and dug a lot of balls. They dug one of our half-court kills. We had to roll that and tips on it up,” Prun University sophomore April Ahern said.

Playing in her last match as a Lady Flame, Haase seemed to be everywhere, once in three sets, Haase dug 43 balls to give Liberty’s hitters a better chance.

“I’m proud of our kids, our freshman and sophomores. They did a great job getting those balls,” said Haase.

Sharks Danika Dale and Tolu Oshonobi combined for 14 points and 16 rebounds. However there was also combined for six turnovers.

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Volleyball Coach: B+

"Our team had a great game. We were able to cut shots in the second half of the game. Our free-throw percentage improved from the first half to the second half as well," Brown said.

COACHES: B+

Coach Green did a great job coaching us after they fell behind in the region in the second half. But, execution was the teams only culprit.

FORWARDS: B

Sharks Danika Dale and Tolu Oshonobi combined for 14 points and 16 rebounds. However there was also combined for six turnovers.

"We were able to keep it close with James Madison. The Flames lost to the Dukes 62-58.

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CLOSE CONTEST — Shooting only 34 percent from the field, the Lady Flames were able to keep it close with James Madison. The Flames lost to the Dukes 62-58.
Soccer finishes season in NCAA tourney

Jeff Alder’s team advanced to the NCAA tournament after winning the BSC

By Kyle TerMarsh
ktmmershark@liberty.edu

The hockey program at Liberty University has been deemed a success since the past two decades. When it first began, hockey was an intramural sport at the school that had no home ice to play in. In the last 10 years, Liberty’s hockey team has become one of the most prominent ACHA teams in the country and is housed in a high-quality college facility in the Lehigh Ice Center. All of these accomplishments would have been impossible without the hard work and driving passion of the man who has been the hockey coach at Liberty for the past 11 years, Kirk Handy.

From a young age, Handy was indoctrinated to love hockey. “It was neat to see Dr. Falwell’s vision come to fruition,” Handy said. “We’re never going to forget about Dr. Falwell’s dream for the hockey teams, the ice rink and what we’re providing them with an arena to play in.”

When he returned to Liberty, Coach Handy was in the midst of Liberty transforming not only the hockey program, but also providing them with a arena to play in.

“I think something I’ll never forget about Dr. Falwell was in the midst of Liberty transforming not only the hockey program, but also providing them with an arena to play in.”

“Obviously, Dr. Falwell always had the vision for the ice rink here and I thought ‘Hey, we’re gonna have an ice rink here!’” Handy said. “It was neat to see Jerry Ervold’s vision for Liberty and our vision for a hockey program come together.” Handy added.

“I think, overall, the progression since August has been something we’ve very proud of,” Handy said. “We like to see our community and our student-athletes work as hard as the first couple months of the semester to put an effort up on the ice.”

The Flames look to finish out the semester on a high note as they take on the No. 1 ranked team in the country, Penn State, this Friday at 7:15 p.m. and Sunday at 4 p.m.

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BCS National Championship: A Flawed System?

Over the years, many have stated that NCAA needs to replace the BCS with a playoff system. However, one of the biggest deficiencies in the BCS is the selection process. The BCS is a four-team playoff system that determines the national champion in college football. The selection committee, composed of media members, coaches, and experts, selects the four teams that will play in the championship games. The selection process has been criticized for being subjective and favoring certain teams over others. The BCS has had its share of controversies, including the 2012 season when Ohio State was left out of the championship despite a 12-0 record. The BCS has been criticized for being too tainted by politics and bias. Despite these criticisms, the BCS remains the most popular and well-attended college football tournament in the United States.

In recent years, there has been a push for a new playoff system that would replace the BCS. The most popular proposal is the College Football Playoff (CFP), which was introduced in 2014. The CFP is a four-team playoff system that is based on a set of criteria, including conference championships and strength of schedule. The selection committee still plays a role in determining the final four teams, but the CFP has been designed to be more transparent and fair than the BCS.

Despite its flaws, the BCS has been a staple of college football for over two decades. The tournament has generated billions of dollars and has been a source of revenue for many schools. However, the BCS has also been criticized for being too exclusive and for not representing the best college football teams. The CFP has been seen as a way to address these criticisms and to create a more fair and equitable system.

The BCS is a flawed system, and it is time for college football to move on to a more transparent and fair playoff system. The CFP is the most promising candidate for replacing the BCS, and it will be interesting to see how college football evolves in the coming years.
Andrew Woolfolk

An unlikely present

When most people see the new electronics, others need only a calendar.

Andrew Woolfolk

Y

ou would be hard pressed to find a job that is as badly

tired up as the one I held during December. For most

people, Christmas morning consists of digging themselves out of bed, fumbling down the steps and promptly gazing at the likes of tech-

ically wrapped present pending which one will be the most reward-

ing to open as it can be set aside to be opened last. But that is us. I

longer need to do. I already know the size and shape of what my favorite present will be. Heck, I know what is there. There will be no surprise.

Imagine if you will, the following:

Every day, a few sentences. Every
day. A few memories are pre-

served. This has gone on for nearly

40 years now, so no vacations, no

breaks for holidays, no missed entries.

Dad was far too interested in keeping

his thoughts written down by an

old Chinese proverb. It stated that

the "faintest of ink is as good as the

strongest memory," and he decided to

put the memories in the two. Two

years later, the calendar is not renewed,

for my dad is as meticulous as he is

organized. For his career, putting it in the two.

This day, sitting on the

beachside his La Z Boy chair in the

family room, his calendar has gathered dust from the past three years. It

was a painstaking task to look at what he did on that day in the past three

years. He wanted space to tell up the maps to his office and
grab a random year. It's his time to

sit, write down how I feel, what

thoughts and reflect on what you did.

One exercise that I like to do is to

write down a short summary of the
calendar and contentment.

I remember that. The few sentences
form the perfect representation of the

male thought process. Contributing to

the point is that if I didn't have enough

time to concentrate, I would fall under that horrible title of a
daily keeper.

The faintest of ink is as good as the

strongest memory. I'm sure that Father

Simplicio Drach, who wrote it, had the
time to write down, "I have a lot of

memories. This upcoming year, I know

what present I will steal, and I look

forward to the day of putting up the next 365 days with even

more memories." This upcoming year,

I will laugh, I hope, but I will

also learn something. And maybe, just maybe, I will be able
to act a little surprised when open

the present.

Woolfolk is a contributing writer.

G a b e

What might someone consider to be early signs of Senioritis? A lack of motivation or a change in attitude? It's not terminal, of course, but it is detrimental to my grades. It's contracted during Thanksgiving break when students get their first taste of the festive spirit that dominates the U.S. from early December to the beginning of January.

While some might complain that Christmas practically starts a month early, it's more than okay with me. Christmas and my personal opinion aside, there are legitimate reasons for starting the holiday season early.

First, you're less likely to forget to buy presents when significant discounts are available year round. Also, the peaceful melodies fill the air as we all break out our Christmas music from that little corner of our iTunes libraries. Most importantly of all, the cold weather and Christ-

mas spirit are facts that, in only a short while, we'll be home.

For me, the best part is spending a month with loved ones. But it can be hard to keep a festive mood when you are not allowed to say "Merry Christmas" or hear about reindeer games on Christ-

mas. Let's be honest, we can't help but feel the spirit of what Christmas is really about. America could single-handedly abolish the sex slave industry by only

sacrificing one holiday. Yet, instead we spend our hundreds on ridiculous music and ugly sweaters.

What if we took one holiday season and let the rest of us cele-

brate the most joyful time of the year for as long as we can.

Woolfolk is a contributing writer.

FROM THE PAGES OF

THE ASHLEY ROLLINGER

The Ashley ROLLINGER

DECEMBER 6, 2011

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Woolfolk is a contributing writer.
November 6, 2011

Cherie Jamison
cherie@liberty.edu

**Dangers of last-minute shopping**

'Twas the procrastinator before Christmas, and all through the stores...

If there is anything that I can say to you, it would be to take the opportunities that are thrust upon you, no matter the size, and roll with them. It's not worth going through life worried about whether you are making the right decision, it's only worth making in the decision to live your life.

What Liberty University did for me is more than I can explain. I was a young Christian from the farmland of upstate New York who found refuge at a university built on a mountain of possibilities. Although I do not always agree with everything that Liberty does, Liberty was, and always will be, an amazing university. The atmosphere around campus is uplifting, and coming from a place with a population of less than 90,000, the camaraderie and the quality of education is above anything I could have asked for.

I want to thank the university and its administration for providing me with my faith and helping me believe that there is a real purpose for me in the world. Learning from the spiritual leaders around campus has left a major impact on my life. I also want to thank Liberty for helping me with my patience, through long waits on the phone listening to the same message about sending my financial aid and reminders about signing up for all the groups and clubs on campus that really don't apply to me. Also, I want to thank you for not giving me advice more times than I can count, turning me on the side, confusing me on what classes I needed to take to graduate. If you didn't understand, that was all supposed to be funny, but also true. In all honesty though, I want to thank the professors for supplying me with all the information I need to do what I love.

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**A farewell and thanks to liberty**

There comes a time in your life when you can step back and realize how much influence, how much love, who you are, and what you have accomplished. I, on the other hand, hope I could have been more like a parent, for every husband, like all of mankind.

Driving away from the store, I cried. If ever I learned something important in my life, it was that Christmas Eve is a time to stay inside, relax and most importantly - to hide.

FOWLER is an opinion editor.

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Liberty Champion/B6
After waiting all year, December is here and winter sports take the spotlight once again. On Saturday, for the second time at Liberty University, DeMoss Rail Jam gave skiers and snowboarders the chance to show off their abilities.

Because of higher than normal temperatures, the event moved from DeMoss to Liberty Mountain Snowflex Centre. Last year, snow was transported in from the Wintergreen Resort in Wintergreen, Va., and covered the rails of DeMoss where 30 different snowboarders and skiers competed. However, the resort lacked enough snow this year.

"Temperature is really being a big factor for us right now," Snowflex instructor Zachary Bubel said.

The Rail Jam involved two different competitions. The first, Trials 2 Rails consisted of about nine Liberty students new to the sport who have only been training at the Snowflex Centre for two months.

"Trials 2 Rails was incredible. I was hoping away by the transformation," General Manager Drew Sherwood said.

Liberty student Jeremy Gann won the event, recieving 8000 worth of gear including a board, boots, bindings, jacket, pants, goggles and Baoms. Isaac Gibson came in second overall, winning a jacket, and Adam Vardarev was third, winning goggles for his efforts. In the women's division, Rachel Wendry won and received a new Billabong Jacket.

"It's not something everyone can do. You got to be pretty athletic, agile, and you got to conquer fear too," Head Instructor Luke Fosse said. "There's some scary hits and rails.

Following Trials 2 Rails, the main event consisted of 30 different expert skiers and snowboarders using complex tricks to win a cash prize totaling $3,000. Ross Rowan from Boone, N.C. won the event for skiers, Liberty student Matt Rogers won second place, and Tanner Stutsman from Boone was third. Liberty student Zach Hall won first place in snowboarding. Austin Leonard from Boone won second, and Luke Fosse from Vermont was third. Ron Leeds was awarded the best trick and won $100.

Assistant Manager Will Schenck said the most elite tricks used on the rails were fifth on and off the rails and switch, which is basically hitting the rail backwards.

"It's all really technical snowboarding on a hundred, Schenck said.

Three different rails were set up on the slope and more than 15 riders at a time attempted to ride the rails, much like grandma's in skateboard. They were judged on how clean the ride was and how difficult the trick was.

"Overall, it was a very successful event," Sherwood said.

Trials 2 Rails began at 7 p.m. and the main event ended around midnight. Hundreds of Liberty students showed up for winter clothes and watching.

The event was free and prizes were awarded to fans including an iPad. Part of the dope remained open during the night for anyone to ride or watch the competition.

For more information, visit www.libertyathletics.com or call the Liberty Mountain Snowflex Centre at 434-582-3579.
Abigail Boppenhaver  
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Christmas time is here and students and community members are invited to participate in holiday traditions, including a signature downtown event Dec. 8-10, and a sister event Dec. 7.

Hosted by downtown Lynchburg, the SGA offers a Christmas study break, a game competition and a food contest that will give students the opportunity to take a break from studying for finals week and enjoy good food, unique gift opportunities, and a chance to relax with friends and family.

The SGA is holding this event as a way to support downtown Lynchburg and provide a fun activity for students. The event will be held on Dec. 8-10.

Students and community members are invited to participate in the SGA's Christmas study break event, which will be held on Dec. 8-10. The event will feature food, games, and gift opportunities.

The SGA is holding this event as a way to support downtown Lynchburg and provide a fun activity for students.
Creativity blossoms at Petal Flower Co.
OSL associate director Elisha Dudley makes art a business

Desiree Wheeler
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Even with winter approaching, flowers are in demand all year long, and at the Petal Flower Company, flowers are always in season. The Petal Flower Company is an online floral business that supplies Lynchburg, Forest, and surrounding areas with delicate flower arrangements. The Flower Company offers customers unique bouquets ranging from melon-Chartreuse to even plum-tangerine.

Dudley was promoted to AD after three years of experience working as a RD on Liberty's campus. She graduated from Liberty University in 2007 with her Bachelor's degree in Interior Design and again in 2010 with a Business Master’s of Science in Management.

"I'm so thankful that the Lord provided such a fun job that allows me to meet so many different people and to be a part of one of the most important days of their lives. Every wedding is as unique as the bride's individual style and has its own challenges. I often joke that I could have my own Bravo TV show," said Dudley.

For more information or to see examples of Dudley's work, visit the Petal Flower Company online at www.petalflowercompany.com.

WHEELER is a feature reporter.

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Star-crossed lovers take stage

Liberty Theatre brings to stage Shakespeare’s well-known classic

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Wherefore art thou, Romeo? — Shows are currently underway for Liberty’s production of Romeo and Juliet. This is the first Shakespeare play the theatre department has put on since the opening of the new Tower Theatre.

"I thought it went very well. I’m proud of the students and the hard work that they’ve put in," Brasher said. "I was just talking to the light designer. And Graham, about the progress the students have made just in the last week. They’ve worked hard for the entire five-week process, but just in the last week they’ve made great strides.

Romeo and Juliet posed several challenges for the students, including learning how to mouth-to-mouth and speak the Shakespeare dialect enough to make it conversational.

"The Shakespeare language is hard to grasp, but Mr. Brasher had lots of experience, and knew how to prepare us for the Shakespeare language," senior Will Variato, who took the role of Ishak, said. "So we had a lot of preparation and a lot of practice to allow us to speak the Shakespeare language and connect with the audience.

Even with the challenges, junior Andrew Parfit, who played Romeo, said that the plot was understood. "I think that the audience reacted to the Shakespearean language: a lot better than I expected them to. They were laughing at all of the jokes that we half expected would go over their heads," Parfit said. "It was my first Shakespeare as well, but the directors were very proficient in helping me out and bringing them to life.

The show offered variety to the Tower stage.

“We do lots of other shows that are great, we have musicals and more contemporary comedies, but it’s great to include classical literature in the season at Liberty," Brasher said. "Looking back on the works that most influenced our culture is a very good thing for any college, especially Liberty, to do. Shakespeare, after all, is quoted more than any other writer outside of the Bible in the English language.

Show times for Romeo and Juliet are Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 10 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. For more information about the Liberty Department of Theatre Arts and their upcoming shows, visit liberty.edu/theatre.

JENNINGS is the feature editor.