Parking responses

Ashley Bollinger
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Liberty University students have responded to a myriad of campus changes, including a new parking system. According to Liberty’s administration the changes are showing promising results and will remain in effect for the following academic year.

The first major part of the change was taking on-campus parking spaces primarily Hill and East Campus student vehicles and moving them to newly constructed lots that were put up in the last couple of weeks,” Liberty’s Vice President of Financial Research and Analysis Richard Martin said.

Although having to relocate on-campus vehicles may not be convenient for Martin and other members of the administration, the students have responded well.

“Liberty predicted on letting our freshman bring cars. Not too many big schools do that,” Chancellor Jerry Falwell Jr. said.

“We wanted to continue that, but we have to change where the younger students park, and we do appreciate the way they have responded to that change.”

According to Martin, on-campus students have to walk a maximum of 20 minutes to reach their relocated vehicles.

“If we let put commuters in the lot he tried the Wingate there would have been diminished construction generates a week of walking, but the same parking space used for on-campus students only generates a hundred hours,” Martin said.

See PARKING, A8

Chapman receives grace

Tabitha Cassidy
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Former Liberty University defensive lineman Asa Chapman pleaded guilty to two misdemeanor charges and one felony charge in a Lynchburg City Court in January. Under Virginia law, however, Chapman will be given a second chance, Chancellor Jerry Falwell Jr. said.

As a first time offender, charges against Chapman will be dropped after a period of time and the former college football star will continue on his path toward the National Football League (NFL) without a criminal record. His next scheduled court date is Feb. 3.

According to Liberty administration, the university stands behind its decision to allow Chapman to finish his schooling at Liberty and will remain in effect for the following academic year.

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See PARKING, A8

Building Liberty

More changes bring new look to Liberty’s campus

Ashley Bollinger
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Construction on Liberty University’s campus continues as the administration makes plans to demolish the buildings located behind DeMoss.

According to Liberty’s Director of Planning and Construction Charles Spencer, the university is looking to relocate the offices and classrooms currently residing in the SLAB and Schilling to the completed fourth floor of DeMoss by March 1.

“The purpose of what we are trying to do is to relocate people who are currently in buildings such as the SLAB to make room for the construction of the new library,” Spencer said.

According to Spencer, the demolition project is projected to be done as soon as all departments have been transitioned out of their current locations.

“After these buildings are demolished we are going to be left with approximately 90,000 cubic yards of dirt that needs to be removed for the library construction,” Chancellor Jerry

WIN — Josie Sanders goes up against a VMI player for a two-point layup.

Students vote to keep tuition low, but also give Liberty a voice

Regularity and voting, in particular to local and national elections, not only gives Liberty a voice, but also helps to keep the cost of tuition down, according to Falwell.

“The zoning changes will avoid expensive mandates from the city, so Liberty grows and builds, allowing Liberty to keep tuition low,” Falwell said. “Liberty has kept its tuition in the lowest 25 percent of all private colleges nationwide and Liberty gives its students over $100 million in institutional aid and scholarships each year. We have shown that we have the option of registering where their parents live and voting there, but if there is a need for the financial assistance Liberty provides and to help Liberty keep tuition low and if we lose, we are asking students to please option to vote in the places that are consistent, according to Falwell. It’s a way they can help their university to continue to improve in so many ways.

BOLLINGER is the editor in chief.

Walmart CEO speaks

William S. Simon, the president and CEO of Walmart U.S., spoke on his perseverance and his passion for coaching high school football in 1991 if students had not registered locally.

According to his executive biography, Simon led the executive vice president of professional services after he had launched Walmart’s $4 prescription drug program.

CASSIDY is the news editor.
Karl Rove discusses 2012 presidential race

Omar Adams
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Former Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor to President George W. Bush, Karl Rove spoke at Randolph Hall Jan. 30 about President Barack Obama, the upcoming election and his years of experience in politics. "The reason Karl Rove is so memorable," his host of both Bush's presidential campaign, Rove and his former colleague President George W. Bush, told The Champion, "is because he's been a plaintiff in so many different court cases through the years. So you have a number of the states mandating court-imposed burdensome mandates, which are going to cause local governments to basically change their way of doing things."

"The problem is it ain't very popular," Rove said. "In fact, if any of you have the idea of getting a PhD in political science, here's some examples. The Healthcare Mandate is the first piece of major legislation to become law in America in 50 years. Other significant concerns for the president are unemployment, spending and foreign policy with the end of the War in Iraq and the ending of Obama's Environmental Protection Agency. Rove is one of Obama's main weaknesses, Rove said. The president is the first Democrat in the 73 years of Gallup polling to have a negative rating on public health care. "The healthcare mandate is one of America's main strengths," Rove said. "He's in bad shape in Nebraska," Rove said. "This is an opportunity I wouldn't pass up." Martin said. "You don't reform the healthcare system by running against the incumbent."

"You will find plenty of students and faculty who love to answer your questions," Martin said. "Students who are not planning on voting because they are not at home have the opportunity to change their voter registration status." Alternate voting takes place in all 50 primary states, Rove said.

"The election will be a battle for both parties, but Rove pointed out that the 2010 census rearranged some of the electoral votes. Some votes from states that have traditionally supported Democratic candidates have since been reallocated to typically Republican states. Rove expects some states that the president won in 2012 to change sides as well. "It's in harsh shape in Nebraska," Rove said. "Just trust me — he's gonna win it again."

Regardless of the challenges facing the president in 2012, Rove is calling for an election that's "as close as possible under the circumstances." Rove explained that the "first midterm elections" are always a "wake-up call" for the president of the United States. "Every election is a wake-up call for the president," Rove said. "It's gonna be a lack of an election to watch because it's very much up for grabs," he said. ADAMS is the assistant news editor.
Vines Center food court closes

Tablet Cassidy  
news@lchampion.edu

Lack of student interest has caused the Vines Center food court to officially shut down, according to Liberty University Chancellor Jerry Falwell Jr. According to Lee Beaumont, director of auxiliary services at Liberty, the college began losing money after Founder’s Food Court vendors initially moved over to the Vines Center last year. The amount of revenue the operation was making dropped significantly, Beaumont said.

“It’s no different than anything else. You want things to stand on their own operationally. The students just weren’t utilizing it,” Beaumont said.

Student workers at the Vines Center food courts also said that area was not receiving as much traffic as Founder’s Food Court vendors at Liberty, the college was losing money after Founder’s or the Hangar, student worker Rebecca Wiltshire said. The amount of food being ordered increased since the success of the Tilley Center food court, the administration decided to place more food options in that location.

In order to put in a new Chick-fil-A in the Tilley, the reserve office training corps (ROTC) offices and some Student Activities space will have to be relocated. ROC'TC will be placed in the current spinning room across from Liberty’s postal services in Green Hall, Beaumont said.

“Beaumont said that the Liberty University administration and Chick-fil-A executives have been discussing the possibility of having a second location for students on main campus in addition to Tilley the college process for both main campus, food courts, though, could take place. We’re doing everything we can to offer a quality dining program here on campus,” Beaumont said. According to Beaumont, there has not been any negative feedback about the Vines Center food courts being shut down so far. The administration welcome suggestions to improve the quality of dining services for residential students and take those suggestions into serious consideration, Beaumont said.

“Our desire is to service the student body as best we can and by doing so in a financially sustainable manner,” Beaumont said. CASSIDY is the news editor.

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Romney: The saltine candidate

As GOP candidates drop left and right, voters are left with a handful of unappealing options to choose between

Texas Gov. Rick Perry has proven that he can't be allowed to speak in public, let alone participate and put out an unalike ad that quickly became the most disturbing on the airwaves.

In a 30-second commercial, Perry dropped out of the race as a candidate.

"We are the root of the problem," Herman Cain said, "and winning some of the nonprofit groups have had some time before a vague rhythm for the 2012 campaign under fire in the nations of the United States. "

The death toll in the Massachusetts student crisis might have with a lot of money, but in the case of Mitt Romney's involvement in politics there is something even more worrying. Central to two, the Supreme Court overturned an "exploratory committee to lay the groundwork" for his candidacy for the presidency of the United States. Since his first run in the 1990s, Romney has been an "outlaw" in the political system's eyes. His recent political runs have been a joke.

COOL RUNNINGS — While Romney's 2012 election was short-lived, the result of his push for a Super PAC may become a trendsetter for future elections.

In June of 2011, Romney was granted permission by the Federal Election Commission (FEC) to form an independent expenditure-only committee, or what's commonly called a Super PAC.

One year earlier, the Supreme Court overturned an "exploratory committee to lay the groundwork" for his candidacy for the presidency of the United States. Since his first run in 2007, Romney has been involved more in the nation's political life than anyone in order to avoid the same problems that he encountered before the U.S. Congress about the poor working conditions of migrant workers and later faced a political lurch with Comedy Central reporter Jon Stewart.

Many of the left-leaning voters who have little to no sympathy for the Tea Party and subsequent divestitures of the Republican Party are sending a loud and clear message. This ruling allowed wealthy individuals and corporations to finance independently political activities under federal law.

A subsequent Supreme Court decision in the case of Citizens United v. FEC established that limiting how corporations could spend money was a violation of the First Amendment rights of corporations. Most recently, the Court has said that for Super PACs, a speech that is separate from the candidate's personal life is constitutional. In January, when he announced his run for a second, his stance was the same as the president of the Supreme Court and his uncorked the "sanctimonious" of the "wonderful" of Comedy Central's "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart." This year in a new interview with New York Times, Romney claimed that his views on the Super PACs were "one of the reasons I ran for office". Both of his coalitions political acts are sending a loud and clear message about the absurdity of the changes to our political campaigns finance system and drawing attention not to the need for an overhaul.

Colbert himself summed it up best when he spoke at the College of Charleston on Jan. 23 during his event campaign rally with former Republican presidential candidate Herman Cain. "The citizens have asked, 'is this all some joke? We've all heard, haven't we,' and they're saying, 'are we allowed to be formed to a Super PAC and spend that money on political ads and for personal enrichment,' and then they'll go back and say to one of my closest friends while I explore a run for office: 'is that is joke, then they are saying that our entire campaign finance system is a joke.'

In light of the 2010 Citizens United decision to view corporations as people in a way that Colbert and his team, as well as Republicans, are doing with their Super PACs, will they be sending a new message, and for the new base, but all of us have something that seems to be coming together over, demanding

But through his time spending for a Super PAC and spend that money on political ads and for personal enrichment, and then they'll go back and say to one of my closest friends while I explore a run for office: 'is that is joke, then they are saying that our entire campaign finance system is a joke.'

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Instead of just talking about what it means to be a public figure, and trying not to hurt a moment that we aim at.

In chapter 6 of Matthew, Jesus said, "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." We may not be voting for a Super PAC, but we do have something that seems to be coming together over, demanding not to worry about tomorrow. Even though there is a false wakefulness, morning the stream in search of the perfect home, we still worry.

COOL RUNNINGS — While Romney's 2012 election was short-lived, the result of his push for a Super PAC may become a trendsetter for future elections.

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COOL RUNNINGS — While Romney's 2012 election was short-lived, the result of his push for a Super PAC may become a trendsetter for future elections.
Costa Cruises evades responsibility

After the Concordia capsized, the ship's captain is under fire for abandoning the ship and its passengers

Jason Bailey

January 13, 2012

The Concordia had a capacity of 3,654 passengers, plus an additional 1,000 crew members. Dozens are still unaccounted for.

In an effort to avoid imminent lawsuits, Costa Cruises has offered survivors of the capsized vessel 30 percent discounts on future cruises with the company.

This attempt to appease is hardly enticing and draws the implication that Costa Cruises is shirking personal responsibility. It is also a disrespectful gesture to the public, particularly the families who lost loved ones during the Concordia's voyage.

"I sailed with Costa Cruises in the Caribbean and Mediterranean Sea," Bailey said. "It was without question one of the best cruises I've ever sailed on. He had no choice but to go down."

There are hundreds of others who disagree, and the ship's captain didn't help Costa Cruises' image while the chaos of the event occurred. Captain Francesco Schettino reportedly jumped ship, leaving the passengers and crew in the liner was sinking and escaped in a life raft, according to NBC News.

"He is definitely in serious trouble," Bailey said. "I would fully expect some sort of felony charge pending against him, and we would be surprised if investigators manslaughter is in the works."

"By default, there are certain laws that limit action taken against the company in the case of an emergency," Bailey said.

Regarding the captain's actions, Knopp admitted that she sympathized with the deceased and the families who lost loved ones and understood the rage they must be experiencing towards him and the company.

"I think [the captain] needs to take responsibility for what he did. He was in charge of the ship," Knopp said. "I wouldn't want him to be in charge of a future cruise I was on. He should be fired or have his license revoked."

And while the Costa Cruises has now upped its compensation deal to a less-than-impressive $1,000 with an additional reimbursement for the cost of cruise tickets, the company still has a hard time ahead of it. It now faces an exhausting battle to redeem its reputation.

BAILEY is an opinion writer.
Jacksonville, Ill., native Sgt. Alex Helmhick, now a helicopter aviation student at Liberty University—enlisted in the Army in 2006 in response to the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. He was deployed to Iraq in 2008 and was there until this year when he could serve my country for what happened on 9/11, and I chose the Army over the other branches because the Army could do it for me,” Helmich said. “They gave me and me and my unit actually had a joint mission with the Air Force and the Navy called ‘CRAM’ (Counter Rocket, Artillery, Mortar),” he said. “Basically I walk into the door and check out all artillery sites that we have with high tech Gatling guns.”

Helmich tracked rockets and mortar rounds, both to get the grid coordinates for the force and artillery countermeasures and to save the base of incoming fire. “One night we got hit with five 120mm rockets from about three miles south of base,” he said. “I set up grid coordinates to the fire, and they demanded it necessary to drop two 500-pound bombs on the spot they were fired from. Seeing the fire ping drop at a fire and leaving them are off the scale that day.”

Helmich finished his service in the Army and got married in July 2010. “When he married at Liberty the following month, he said he was not sure God was leading him.

“My wife kept asking me what major I was going to declare. I didn’t know,” Helmich said. “So from my experience in the Army with going through Air Assault and being around helicopters all the time in Iraq, I chose to pilot. I jumped in the helicopter program hard and fast and never looked back.”

With the end of the helicopter program at Liberty, Helmich will have to transfer to a new flight school at the end of the summer so to go for his commercial cert. He is disappointed about the decision, but he said he understands why the school had to do it.

Helmich also started Liberty and his instructors — Director of Helicopter Flight Operations Dan Callich and flight instructor Josh Tate — “for a good foundation” in his flight training. “There were some things we kept to so other future helicopter pilots can learn in the same environment that so many other Christian pilots have learned,” he said. “The School of Aeronautics had a choice to make and they made it. I’m not bitter about it, that’s just the way it has to be.”

Because of the new change in plans, Helmich said he is not going to go into a helicopter. “That’s the date,” he said, “but he has goals in place where he finishes his certifications.

"Eventually when I graduate, I want to fly tours over the Grand Canyon," Helmich said. “Just probably join back in the Army to be a combat med flight. Either way, I’d be doing something that I love and will continue to enjoy my whole life.”

ADAMS is the web editor.

Expansions in Aeronautics

Omar Adams
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Liberty University’s School of Aeronautics will phase out its helicopter training program, citing low enrollment and lack of available jobs for helicopter pilots.

Students currently enrolled in the helicopter program will be allowed to finish their training, but the small market for future pilots and aircraft makes the helicopter program a problem, according to School of Aeronautics program director Dan Callich, and CAPT. Erin Rogers.

"There’s an enormous increase in demand for UAV pilots. Law enforcement, space, drone, homeland security, pipeline patrol, TV stations and even crop dusting and international cargo flights are all potential UAV applications. The simplicity, safety and extremely low cost of small, unmanned aircraft make them perfect for the commercial new jobs in the future," according to Rogers.

"Many of the places to do a job with a $60,000 first one selected titles to replace the need for cell phones to be," said. "It will cost you just another people, or with the FAA approved, and some will travel to go away." According to Rogers, students that graduated Air Force Gen. Dave Young sees an opportunity for an online UAV program. The school already offers an online degree for in aeronautical engineering, and military members to finish their degrees to meet the new. of aviation and aviation businesses and aviation technology.

"We see an opportunity for an online degree program in UAS, and that would allow those without an undergraduate, let’s say, enrolled persons that don’t have a college degree, but have the experience,” Young said. "We can give them credit for that and allow them other college requirements.

Along with the new online program, two others have tremendous growth in the past year. The aircraft maintenance technology program grew 45 percent. In November that will triple the size of the program.

U.S. AIR FORCES WASHINGTON, D.C.

WEBSITE: The School of Aeronautics initiated a new program in unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) training and significantly expanded its aviation maintenance, online degree finish-up and flight attendant programs.

Instead of training one 1-month class at a time, the school can now support three Rogers said the maintenance school has a 98 percent graduation rate and a 100 percent employment rate.

"It’s a two-year program approved into one year," Rogers said. "So nice — you leave with an airplane and power plant to make sure you’re an FAA licensed flight trainer. You have the opportunity to work while you’re in college, or, if that’s not what you want to do, you can get your job and finish your degree online.

A final program which has grown significantly is Liberty’s flight attendant program. It grew 400 percent since last year. The program can be taken as an online, minor or associates degree. When students finish their flight attendant training, they are awarded a certificate of comple- tion from the Flight Attendant Training Group and a letter of recommendation from the School of Aeronautics. The primary focus of the training is

safety, security and emergency training because that’s why flight attendants exist," our Flight Attendant Training Group instructor said. "Our training focuses on necessary skills, survival, fires and other emergencies that, may arise. We feel that anyone can find a job, but not everyone can use it.

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Math Emporium: A new way to learn math

Ty Dushay
libertychampion.com

At Liberty University, students are learning math differently than ever before. This comes about thanks to a combination of both the students and the professors. It’s called the Math Emporium, located in the National Center for Academic transformation, whose motto reads, “Experts in improving learning and reducing cost in higher education.”

“The experimental approach to teaching laser-level math allows students to learn at an individual pace, while being cost effective,” Coordinator and Developmental Math Assistant Professor Dr. Kathy Spradlin said.

With more than 200 computers and comfortable workspaces, this quiet math lab has its students’ ability to learn, training and better understanding math.

“Students can work at their own pace and receive individual assistance by the Math Emporium’s tutors and professors the moment help is needed,” Spradlin said.

The Math Emporium is open 80 hours each week, but only requires a minimum of three hours a week. “Students are still required to meet in a class a certain amount of time for instruction,” Spradlin said.

Now that students have more time to work on their math, there is the added chance to perform better and receive higher grades.

“Students can complete assignments, quizzes and tests a section at a time, and can skip sections if they understand the material. This means any student could potentially complete the whole course before the semester ends,” Spradlin said.

“I actually like the Math Emporium a lot. I am able to go to the lab for just 15 minutes, or I can complete the required three hours in one sitting,” 22-year-old senior, a Math student at Liberty, said.

The grading of coursework is structured differently in that it requires a score of an 80 percent or higher in order to continue to the next test.

“I think the requirements for grading are better for students because it encourages them to be studying more and seeking in a better grade,” Williamson said. “Because of this, students are able to get the advantage of the Math Emporium. Other colleges and universities are using this method well too such as Virginia Tech, University of Alabama and Louisiana State University, not to mention Liberty,” Spradlin said.

It won’t be long before this reform-minded style expands and is utilized by other school districts.

“As of now, the Math Emporium is only available for lower-level math courses, but plans for additional math courses are on effect for upcoming fall semester,” Spradlin said.

“Now that students are gifted with this new addition, it is possible to embrace learning abilities; as well as utilize math professionals in their efforts to guide a ‘math-landlord’ approach individual in the intended counseling direction toward success. Students now have the ability to manage their education in a richer format,” Spradlin said.

DAUSSYS is a news reporter.

Math Skills — Students study at their own pace at the new Math Emporium

Katie Pooley | Liberty Champion

Blood drives save lives

Liberty University collects over 50 units of blood

Kiate Pooley
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A blood drive was held Wednesday, Jan. 25, in the back hall of DeMoss Compass Library from 12:30 p.m. until 6 p.m. The event was sponsored by the Virginia Blood Service and the College of General Studies.

“During the winter months regular blood donors go down due to illness and holidays and hospital rates go up,” Virginia Blood Service’s Communications Manager, Marcy Fausz said.

“January is an especially important time for blood donations because of holidays. There is usually a greater amount of traffic accidents and patients dependent on blood treatments tend to need more blood according to the Virginia Blood Services.”

“When you give blood, it stays local,” Fausz said. “It’s important for members of the community to come out to help meet the needs.”

According to statistics provided by the Virginia Blood Services, one pint of blood has the potential to save up to three lives and every two seconds someone is in need of blood.

“The statistics show that more than 450,000 pints of donated blood are needed by the Virginia Blood Services each day in order to provide for patients.”

“(At college students), we are in the prime of our lives, age wise ... why not give blood when you’re young,” junior Timothy Hepburn said.

Hepburn has donated blood four times in his life and began donating during his freshman year. “It went to someone before anyone else ... it’s important for me to do service before anything else,” Hepburn said.

Liberty’s blood drive is one of many taking place on campus this week, according to a press release issued by the Virginia Blood Services.

“Other colleges and universities are using this method well too such as Virginia Tech, University of Alabama and Louisiana State University, not to mention Liberty,” Spradlin said.

It won’t be long before this reform-minded style expands and is utilized by other school districts.

“Now that students are gifted with this new addition, it is possible to embrace learning abilities; as well as utilize math professionals in their efforts to guide a ‘math-landlord’ approach individual in the intended counseling direction toward success. Students now have the ability to manage their education in a richer format,” Spradlin said.

DAUSSYS is a news reporter.

BLOOD DRIVE — Community members partake in the campus-wide blood drive.

Katie Pooley
kpooley@liberty.edu

A blood drive was held Wednesday, Jan. 25, in the back hall of DeMoss Compass Library from 12:30 p.m. until 6 p.m. The event was sponsored by the Virginia Blood Service and the College of General Studies.

“During the winter months regular blood donors go down due to illness and holidays and hospital rates go up,” Virginia Blood Service’s Communications Manager, Marcy Fausz said.

“January is an especially important time for blood donations because of holidays. There is usually a greater amount of traffic accidents and patients dependent on blood treatments tend to need more blood according to the Virginia Blood Services.”

“When you give blood, it stays local,” Fausz said. “It’s important for members of the community to come out to help meet the needs.”

According to statistics provided by the Virginia Blood Services, one pint of blood has the potential to save up to three lives and every two seconds someone is in need of blood.

“The statistics show that more than 450,000 pints of donated blood are needed by the Virginia Blood Services each day in order to provide for patients.”

“(At college students), we are in the prime of our lives, age wise ... why not give blood when you’re young,” junior Timothy Hepburn said.

Hepburn has donated blood four times in his life and began donating during his freshman year. “It went to someone before anyone else ... it’s important for me to do service before anything else,” Hepburn said.

Liberty’s blood drive is one of many taking place on campus this week, according to a press release issued by the Virginia Blood Services.

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Blood drives save lives

Liberty University collects over 50 units of blood

Kiate Pooley
kpooley@liberty.edu

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DAUSSYS is a news reporter.
CONSTRUCTION — The new baseball stadium will be located where David’s Place currently stands. Many roads are closed due to on-going construction project.

Bonds to build

Tabitha Cassidy
scandin@liberty.edu

Liberty University sold $100 million — the fifth time this year — on the bond market to finance construction projects across campus.

The university made its second public offering (IPO) in the past two years on Jan. 11. According to Chancellor Jerry Falwell Jr., financial advisors recommended that the university issue an IPO now because of what it would be spending over the next five years for construction projects due to low interest rates.

These interest rates, Falwell said, will be locked in at 5.1 percent for the next 30 years.

“Now is the good business practice,” Falwell said.

For the first time, Liberty received a rating from Moody’s Investors Service with an A1 rating, meaning that the school has a strong likelihood to pay back what it owes. Standard and Poor’s raised the school’s AA+ status to A1, a very strong capacity to meet its financial obligations, Falwell said. Liberty’s credit rating now sits among the nation’s top 10 universities.

“That is that amazing rating that Liberty has only ever had once in the history of the school,” Falwell said.

According to Falwell, Liberty only borrowed one-third of the amount of money that it currently has on hand. The school, Falwell said, is on track to borrow $1 billion in net assets within a year or two.

CASSIDY is the news editor.

PARKING continued from A1

According to Falwell and Martin, students were evaluated not as academic stars, but by age, when determining which on-campus lots were to be released.

“We have been using an age based out since 1997,” Martin said. “We had a lot of our veterans coming back from the Iraq War, so we had a lot of older students. That’s when the school made the change to look at it from an age standpoint.”

The administration offered younger students, such as James Cash, incentives to relocate their vehicles.

“Students have responded positively to the incentives but, having incentives didn’t mean students were either getting pun-}
JUMP START— Liberty men's and women's track and field dashed past challengers, winning nine events after hosting its open this past weekend.

Paul Frazier

but they did it in a convincing fashion, men's and women's events.

Open in the Tolsma Indoor Track Center.

mamcyers@liberty.edu

Mark Meyers

Aiming toward the mark

prime position to shoot

sights set on a National

tors and attain the biggest

their way past all competi-

at 4-0, the Flames are in

last two years but coach

high expectations and

reigning national champi-

SPORTS

We didn't have the play-

not is depth.

situations," Hoglund said. Not only did they take care of business, Redshirt senior Mia Aghaji took home the crown in the women's triple jump as well as high jump. "I am definitely happy with my perfor-

The main thing is we have to stay focused as a team and just listen to what Coach tells us. Coach Tolsma is a very

Amoo, Aseweh selected by Major League Soccer

Kyle Harvey

Kyle@Liberty.edu

The list of Liberty Flames soccer players who just get a little longer this season. Both Amoo and Aseweh have been taken in the sup-

Columbus Crew, and Aseweh will be taking his talents to the Houston Dynamo.

"The MLS is the high-

level of soccer available in this country," head coach Scott Elder said. There are a lot of players who've

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A trampoline and a dunk might be the only way to reach some audiences. SOAR Dunk knows this.

SOAR mixes ministry with athletics

Greg Learse
aglesons@liberty.edu

Liberty University’s SOAR Dunk Ministry aims to serve God a little differently than the average person.

Eight athletes each morning more than a few basketballs, two trampolines and a message to share can go a long way.

The team’s main goal is to capture an audience’s attention with creative, high-flying dunks and use that opportunity to share the gospel. The team’s name is an acronym that stands for “Sold Out And Ready.”

“We do the show just to grab their attention, but the afterthought where we actually speak, that’s where all the ministry happens,” team captain Brent Fortenberry said.

Associate Director of Ministry Teams Tim Jackson helps organize the events where the team performs.

“The team allows us to get into public schools where other music teams typically don’t go,” Jackson said.

In the past, the team has traveled as far as Kentucky, Ohio and California. Normally, they travel two or three weekends per month, plus half break tour and either a January or March tour.

“We’re trying to raise the bar and get them out to even greater audiences,” Jackson said.

The team is looking forward to an upcoming event in Ohio this February in which they will be performing for about 3,000 people.

SOAR Dunk used to be a ministry that was only open to youth ministry majors, but it is now open to all students. The team also used to be a club sport, but it is now a part of the Department of Ministry Teams.

Cumings and redshirt junior Ryan Smith will need to step up to fill the gap from an injured key performer, about 14 other people.

While No. 11 Charleston Southern joins the men’s team to represent the Big South, the Lady Flames are the only Big South women’s team sporting a regional Ranking.

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A couple of us had trampolines when we were younger, and we would pull the basketball hoop up next to it. So that was our training, I guess, when we were young,” Fortenberry said.

Early in his career, Fortenberry dunked over Jerry Falwell Sr. and last year, over Jerry Falwell Jr. and his wife, Becki.

SOAR Dunk is usually out performing at events across from Liberty, but also performs at halftime at Liberty basketball games when they’re at home.

It just goes to show what can be done when athletics, creativity and ministry combine somewhere over a trampoline.

LEARSE is a sports reporter.

TRACK continued from B1

While No. 11 Charleston Southern joins the men’s team to represent the Big South in regional rankings, the Lady Flames are the only Big South women’s team sporting a regional Ranking.

The Flames hope to carry this early success into conference meets, only a month away.

However, to accomplish their goals, the Flames will need to stay healthy.

"Our key performers, about 25 percent are not performing at their best because of injuries,” Bolona said.

"Normally we hope for that to be about 10 percent. We expect the rest of the team to pick up the slack, but that’s why you run the race — to go out and see if we can still go and perform well in the conference and on the next level.”

Alongside Agbiyi, freshman Mychelle Campaign and redshirt junior Ram Smith performed exceptionally well. Campaigns marking speed over a trampoline dunk team or knowing what to do and how to do it,” Fortenberry said.

Men’s DI Hockey vs. Delaware 5 p.m.

Women’s Tennis vs. Averett 1 p.m.

TOP SPEED — Liberty’s domination at home gives them momentum heading to the Sykes-Sisco Challenge Cup.

February Special
$5 off any tanning package!
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and not to be combined with other offers.
The importance of training year around

Brent Washburn
liberty.edu

The football team has Williams Stadi-
num, the basketball team has the Vies
Cente, the soccer team has the Hall
Center and the freestyle skiing and
snowboarding team has the Liberty
Mount Snowflex Center.

Without any of these facilities it would
be difficult or impossible for Liberty Uni-
versity to have these sports teams.
The reason they are so important is Lib-
erty’s incredible sports facilities.
The opening of the Snowflex Cen-
ter brought the opportunity for Liberty to
have its own freestyle skiing and snor-
ders could ski and snowboard before it
was made convenient, but the Snowflex
Center was the catalyst that made a train-

**It allows me to ride all the time, whether it’s hot or cold, and allows me to prac-
to have its very own freestyle team. Stu-
dents diiricult or impossible for Liberty Uni-
versity’s freestyle team a huge advantage and
an unrnatchable way, all year, in all con-
tions.**

Ryan Leeds, a Liberty senior and cap-

I would not be able to learn without it,”

**Serving from a season of disappointment**

Flames tennis are preparing for a promising 2012 season after a dismal 2011 season

Mark Meyers
meeyers@liberty.edu

The men’s tennis team has begun pre-
paration for the 2012 spring season with
one goal in mind — improvement. The Flames are coming of a disappointing 2011 spring campaign in which they fin-
ished sixth in the Big South Conference.

Coach Chris Johnson believes, however, that this year’s squad is poised to sur-
prise the rest of the conference and make a run for the conference title.

“We certainly have the ingredients for
great results this spring,” Johnson said.
“We are prepared to achieve our goals.”

Two of those “ingredients” come in
the form of junior Simon Tuus and
senior Tristan Stayt. The two

One of the main reasons for the success
of the Tuus and Ben Wirth team is

Shea Thomas had great performance as
doubles partners last season, as they
racked up 11 wins compared to 6 losses.

Johnson believes that one thing this
year’s team has that past teams did not

“One of the things that we have this year
is depth. In every season we had good talent but one or two
injuries could really hurt us,” Johnson said.

“This year our lineup is deeper and very tal-
ented all the way through. We should be able
to weather the storms better because of this.”

With the departure of the Flames the team

The Flames began their season in West
Virginia to square off against Bluefield
State on Jan. 26. The home opener is sched-
uled for Feb. 1 against the Richmond
Spiders. One of the toughest stretches for
the Flames this year will be from Feb. 8 to
March 25 when they play 13 consecutive
road matches.

MEYERS is a sports reporter.

**TRILL SEEKERS — Snowflex accommodates more than just Liberty students but professional athletes as well.**

train, progress and master their sport.

Besides skiing or snowboarding, the facility offers an Olympic trampoline to
train aerial awareness. Aerial awareness is merely knowing yourself while
in the air. The trampoline also builds confi-

ience in the athletes for learning new

flips and as, it offers a lower con-
sequence for un成功的 attempts.

The Snowflex Centre offers multiple
ways for these high-caliber athletes to
carry them to new heights. Lemmi is

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Jesse Sanders sets NCAA record

Derrick Batts
sbatts@liberty.edu

Posting a triple-double in the NBA is hard. In college it's nearly impossible. To do this each season is a blessing, something for which Jesse Sanders is thankful.

"It's crazy," Sanders said. "It's a real blessing to have done something like that. It's not something that I'm used for, but I'm thankful for it. I think it's really important that I realize it's not a record reflective of me, it's a record reflective of our program and the guys I have around me."

In an 87-20 victory over High Point, Sanders became the first player in NCAA history to have at least one triple-double in each of his four eligible seasons. He also holds Liberty University record with 622 for his career. However, this story underlying at Liberty does not happen elsewhere.

"I was actually recruiting my younger brother before they recruited me," Sanders said. "I'm thankful to play ball but the day before I was signed, their head coach was offered a bonus to land another five-star recruit. I went into meetings when Liberty found out I was available and for me to commit, Liberty let me lose the program behind a camera, in-the-locker has suffered from slamming wrists, swollen hauls and knee braces. I'm mindful of the litany of taped fingers, and he told me that I had just give me a chance to showcase my talent."

"While I was on the team, I got a talent. Coming out of college, it's hard to get a good opportunity."

MLS continued from B1

"On draft day we were at a team, we were at a workout."

For Amos, who arrives in Columbus, Ohio, on Tuesday for an orientation, the beginning of training camp in the United States was not his first pro-level dream. "Fifteen years ago, I dreamt of playing in a European league, but God had a different plan. He brought me to America as a school and soccer. I'm just going to do the work and let God take me wherever He wants me to go. I'm trusting God completely," Amos said.

"I'm just going to do the work and let God take me wherever He wants me to go. I'm trusting God completely," Amos said.

"It's really fun. No matter how close you are with other guys on the team the connection between team mates is tight," Sanders said. "John Calb and I have 13-15 years of experience playing together and you can't beat it. It's something that we have talked about since we were little kids working out in the backyard, so being able to share this experience with him is something that I'm sure I'll look back on for years to come."

Although his career at Liberty is coming to an end, Sanders' love for basketball is still deep and continues to grow.

"I still love basketball. The game has been great to me, so I hope to sign with an agent after graduation," Sanders said. "My long term goal is to play in the NBA and I'm able to do that in one great, if it takes four or five years to get there, that's fine. God willing, that's what I want to do. After basketball, when my career ends, I hope to start a basketball ministry and get back to kids who aren't fortunate enough to go to a school like this, working with inner city kids. I want to use basketball as a tool to get people to Christ."

BATTLE is the assistant sports

SOLD OUT AND READY LIVING WHAT THEY PREACH

Kate Benson
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This article is not about, its not dirty or smutty or scandalous. Quite the opposite, in fact. This article is not a group of guys who left a divorce, marched in a gay parade, went to church and let God take me wherever He wants me to go. I'm trusting God completely," Amoo said.

"I have aimed me."

- LOVE FROM ABOVE - The SOAR dunk team ministers from 15 feet in the air.

"My long term goal is to play in the NBA and if I'm able to do that in one year, I'll go to a school like this, working with inner city kids. I want to use basketball as a tool to get people to Christ."

The first jump ends as precisely as I had imagined, except I hit the rim seemingly out of reach and suddenly I'selection and flawlessly, landing square on my nose, spread eagle, on the blue mat under the goal. The rim was so close."

"Good," Brent says. "Try it again."

"Good Again!" This guy was either blow my mind, I had been wanting to learn.

- MLSS continued from B1 -
Addressing the elephants

Students come together to watch live simulcast featuring leading pastors

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Desiree Wheeler
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Addressing the elephants is often a daunting and intimidating task, but on Wednesday, Jan. 25, seven leading pastors banded together for the Elephant Room 2. Similar to previous events that Christian leaders often avoid discussing on a public platform.

Armed with pens and notebooks, an attentive audience filled two dimly lit rooms at Thomas Road Baptist Church on Wednesday afternoon. Eyes fixed on the projector screens, those in attendance watched as several of the nation's leading pastors confronted issues such as what to do when church staff members stumble forward. In many denominations, pastors come to the Elephant Room 2 for the Klephant Room simulcast. Seven leading pastors from various denominations spoke at the event, the School of Religion who was in charge of promotion for the event, the crowd of 100 who gathered to watch the simulcast en masse. 

According to a press release from the School of Religion, the event was filled in front of a live group in Rolling Meadows, Ill. and audiences in 70 major cities viewed the live stream. According to Kelly Jackson, the office manager for the School of Religion who was in charge of promotion for the event, the crowd of 600 who gathered to watch the simulcast in Thomas Road Baptist Church was the largest nationwide.

"I think it's great," senior Jonathan Barber said. "When you bring together all these pastors from different backgrounds, as well as different denominations and different networks and they confront some holiness, that's actual edification."

People of all ages sat side-by-side to listen and absorb the seven hour long discussion, with excited arms and spontaneous clapping echoing from the rooms. The event began at 10 a.m. and lasted until 3 p.m. Due to the length of the event, the audience was treated to a catered lunch and coffee breaks.

Many Liberty students were able to attend the simulcast in replacement of their regularly scheduled classes. Sophomore Ashley Johnson, who attended the Elephant Room Seminar on Round 4 in 2011, enjoyed the flawless event.

"I knew it would grow us and help me have a better understanding of issues that usually aren't addressed in the church," Johnson said.

Barber, who arrived at the start of the day, said the most moving part was the discussion of unity and how it can be a crucial and intimidating task.

"I Cry HE's been here for an hour, I'm just so overwhelmed in what they're saying," he said.

Senior Gabriel Lindsey commented on the quality of the discussions.

"The content is just so rich," Lindsey said. "You keep soaking it up. We're being fed a worship service for two to three hours and you have to sit, because the Spirit is moving.

After seven conversations and a personal question and answer session between all of the pastors, the simulcast came to an end.

"Students really loved the conversations. The topic was very relevant to all of us, whether we're all or young," Jacobson said. "I think it's good for those going into ministry to see what other pastors are dealing with."

"I think we're also all blown away by the humility of these pastors, to admit themselves to a completely unsupervised forum," Barber said. "They knew what their topics were, so they could present them, but when they asked other pastors present how they're really revealing so as where we stand on topics that are whole day has been about transparency."

CONFRONTING THE ISSUES

pastors such as James McDonald and Mark Driscoll discuss controversial topics often avoided in the public realm, momentum moving throughout the entire simulcast.

Students gathered in TRBC to hear leading pastors such as James McDonald and Mark Driscoll discuss controversial topics often avoided in the public realm, momentum moving throughout the entire simulcast.

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Many Liberty students were able to attend the simulcast in replacement of their regularly scheduled classes. Sophomore Ashley Johnson, who attended the Elephant Room Seminar on Round 4 in 2011, enjoyed the flawless event.

"I knew it would grow us and help me have a better understanding of issues that usually aren't addressed in the church," Johnson said.

Barber, who arrived at the start of the day, said the most moving part was the discussion of unity and how it can be a crucial and intimidating task.

"I Cry HE's been here for an hour, I'm just so overwhelmed in what they're saying," he said.

Senior Gabriel Lindsey commented on the quality of the discussions.

"The content is just so rich," Lindsey said. "You keep soaking it up. We're being fed a worship service for two to three hours and you have to sit, because the Spirit is moving.

After seven conversations and a personal question and answer session between all of the pastors, the simulcast came to an end.

"Students really loved the conversations. The topic was very relevant to all of us, whether we're all or young," Jacobson said. "I think it's good for those going into ministry to see what other pastors are dealing with."

"I think we're also all blown away by the humility of these pastors, to admit themselves to a completely unsupervised forum," Barber said. "They knew what their topics were, so they could present them, but when they asked other pastors present how they're really revealing so as where we stand on topics that are whole day has been about transparency."

FOR TICKETING INFORMATION CALL 582.SEAT OR PURCHASE ONLINE AT WWW.LIBERTY.EDU/SA FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL STUDENTACTIVITIESINFO@LIBERTY.EDU OR CALL 434.592.3061
Thrifty options around the 'burg

Secondhand and consignment shops offer vintage clothes and home decor for the shopper on a budget.

Kapil Gaur
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For college students with a big eye for fashion and a small pugy bank, local thrift stores provide opportunities to satisfy their shopping needs with less stress on the wallet.

Liberty University senior Abigail Koppenhaver said many pieces in her wardrobe are found from thrift stores, and that Salvaged in Wyndhurst is one of her favorite kinds of consignment shops because of its high-end retail affordable prices.

"When I first walked in to Salvaged, I immediately noticed some really cute boots and jewelry, but I had to really look through the clothes to find cute things," Koppenhaver said. "I like Salvaged because all of the clothes and shoes are really good quality and they don't look dirty or worn out.

"The Goodwill, located on Wards Road, is another option for students in search of clothing, household goods, shoes, movies, books and accessories.

Jenifer Matthews Crawford's mother, Cheryl Crawford, frequents the Goodwill on a regular basis in search of name-branded clothing items and said she usually can find something good from being a thrift shopper.

"I really like the Goodwill because it is so large and clean," Crawford said. "It's the only thrift store in Lynchburg I go to, and I am always looking for a good deal.

"New to You Consignment shop, located on Old Forest Road, is a smaller and more selective thrift shop.

"Too picky about thrift stores. For clothes and accessories, I like smaller consignment shops because they don't accept things in bulk. If I want nice clothes, or shoes that I can rip up and make into something crafts, or old movies and books, I will go to a larger store like the Goodwill," Koppenhaver said.

"For those students in need of furniture for the dorm or apartment, the DAV, located on Timberlake Road, and Consignment First, located on Waterlick Road, offers an array of furniture and house- hold goods at low prices.

"In today's economy it is very important for me to shop at thrift stores and save money where I can," Crawford said. "I can even make a little cash by selling items to thrift stores, in addition to just buying items at discounted prices.

"Consignment shops like Salvaged and New to You pay cash for gently used items, and then once the item sells in the store, the seller receives a percentage of that sale.

"According to Koppenhaver, thrift store shopping is often hit or miss, but it is worth all the digging to find a great deal.

"I would recommend checking out a thrift store to students who want to have unique things in their wardrobe for cheap," Koppenhaver said. "College students have pretty much no money, so getting a cute bag or pair of vintage shoes for five dollars should be celebrated."

Local shops for Thrift and Consignment

Goodwill
2420 Wards Road.
Lynchburg, Va.
434-239-6504

ETC. Consignment Shop
292 Old Forest Rd.
Forest, Va.
434-384-3635

DAV
8400 Timberlake Rd.
Lynchburg, Va.
434-239-5363

Consignment First
3462 Waterlick Rd.
434-832-1177

GURLEY is a feature writer.

New semester brings new musical talent

Katie Schofield
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Student Activities kicked off the first Campus Artist Service Thurs- day, Jan. 26, in the Tilly Student Center. The event ran from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., and featured the bands "Five" and "GIH and The Brothers.

"Five" took the stage first with members Katie Macintyre, Katie McGraw and Todd Pitt. The band's name originated from the book "Watership Down."

The name is symbolic for putting faith in something even if you're not sure," Pitt said.

The crowd was fired up as "Five" performed several original songs beginning with "Mile," which they had previously performed on campus, as well as "Woke Up" and "Hearts and Home," which featured a combination of whistling by both Macintyre and McCracken and the ukulele played by Pitt. During the show, the band performed the more popular song "Bell Raiser Helen," written by Macintyre.

The second band to grace the stage was "GIH & The Brothers," featuring members Gabi Hernandez, TJ Shain and William (Will) Wilson. The "GIH" of the band's name is symbolic of the initials of Gabi Hernandez and "The Brothers" represents Shain and Wilson. These artists came together after Hernandez and Wilson connected during a word class together.

ALLEYNE is a feature reporter.

For the full article, go to www.libertychampion.com.
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“She doesn’t always get to participate in the same activities that I do,” Liberty University junior Victoria Petrocelli said when describing her 15-year-old younger sister, Alexandra, who was born with Down syndrome. “They offer her something special, something that makes her so happy.”

Petrocelli is referring to the Special Olympics, the world’s largest sports organization for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. They provide year-round training and competitions to more than 7.7 million athletes in more than 170 countries, according to specialolympics.org.

Petrocelli describes the Special Olympics as close to her heart, which is why, after joining the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) at Liberty, she chose to use her skills to help plan and support the Hill City Polar Plunge. Petrocelli has been working on the event with other account associates at Innovations, Liberty PRSSA’s official public relations firm, since September 2011.

The Polar Plunge, now in its fourth year, is an event dedicated to fundraising for Special Olympics Virginia. The event takes place Saturday, Feb. 25, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Camp Hydaway Lake in Lynchburg, Va., and Petrocelli defines it as a “fun, carnival-like day filled with great food, games, and giving away Lake in Lynchburg, Va., and Petrocelli defines it as a “fun, carnival-like day filled with great food, games, and volunteering time to paint signs and helping with set up and clean up at the event.”

“Promoting the event on Facebook and Twitter, or spreading information by word of mouth, is helpful too,” Collins said. “Or you can just attend the event to show your support and celebrate what the Special Olympics stand for.”

The best part of this event overall, according to Collins, is that it is local. The Polar Plunge raises money specifically for the Lynchburg Special Olympics.

“T’s a unique way to give back to an incredible group of people,” Collins said. “And as much as the Special Olympics changes their lives, the stories of these athletes have changed mine. They are truly inspirational people.”

To qualify to plunge, participants need to raise at least $50 and can register online at https://www.livingforlife.org/polarplungeva/2012hillcitypolarplunge. For more information on the Polar Plunge, visit polarplunge.com/lcplp or contact Haley Collins at hacollins@liberty.edu.

FRANCIS is the copy editor.
Sodexo hosts 'Fit Flames' health workshop

Courtney West

Sodexo, in cooperation with Registered Dietitian Robin Quay, is looking for a believable informational meeting called the “Fit Flames” Workshop.

"What we found in surveys is that college students really want information about health, wellness and good nutrition," Quay said. "So we're offering them everything they could want in one lecture, and we're excited to bring it to the dining hall and more."

"The purpose of the class is to give basic nutrition information to students," Quay said. "Our average college student between the ages of 18 and 21 gains 7-13 pounds during their undergraduate years. Quay says that there are many factors that cause weight gain, including fewer gym visits, late night for pizza, homework, academic adjustments and stress.

"This is one reason the program came about. It's not reticible that you will come out of college 13 pounds heavier," Quay said. "We want to make sure they have every tool available for that to not happen." Benefits of the workshop include tips from a trainer who will give health and exercise information and show students simple exercise ideas. A physician will also attend the meetings to share news and wellness advice. Quay will also be conducting a tour of the Robins-Thompson Dining Hall so students can learn how to navigate and make healthy food choices.

"We are going to talk about weight and want confluence after each meeting," Quay said. "Students are encouraged to attend each meeting if possible. The workshop includes regular weigh-ins and those who attend will have their information and progress recorded.

"We're going to be getting information and really interesting Students will learn a lot of things that will help them in life. This isn't going to be something to just do today, but something to help them have good habits for the rest of their life so that they will be happier and healthier," Quay said.

The Fit Flames workshop hopes to make students look their best, feel their best, perform their best and farm habits for a healthy future. Students can register by emailing Robin Quay at Robin.Quay@sodexo.com. Registration is not required, but walk-ins are more than welcome. Quay said.

WEST is a feature reporter.