O\n
could not help but to think that the night of the new Liberty Baseball Stadium filled with fans of all ages was a dream of the late Dr. Jerry Falwell brought to life. Among a flurry of other projects, including academic and residential buildings, construction workers feverishly work on a new state-of-the-art baseball stadium overlooking the mountains on the north end of campus. While time did not allow crews the opportunity to complete the venue, the 2,500 chair-back seat and AstroTurf playing surface were ready for a new chapter in Liberty baseball. The weekend, Feb. 23-24, when the Flames played their first home series of the season against Penn State.

Even though the Liberty Baseball Stadium hosted many of the amenities that will eventually be available when the $8 million project is complete, 2,655 excited fans came out to pack the home opener Saturday, Feb. 23.

President Zaki Ritz, Jr. threw out the first pitch to open the new stadium. It was his idea to build a new stadium rather than renovate O. Douglas Bray playing field. The idea he has one that one baseball stadium should not be cut down in a rainy season. From view, on.

See STADIUM, A3

Scholarships increase

Tabitha Cassidy
	
teach@liberty.edu

New student interest in academic scholarships at Liberty University might be happy to know that the University has recently increased its scholarship offerings by nearly $10 million according to Vice President of Financial Aid Robert Ritz. Beginning fall of 2013, Liberty will offer a limited number of full tuition scholarships to high school valedictorians and salutatorians. The university will also increase the Academic Achievement Scholarship for new students, including full scholarship for those who meet a series of criteria. Additionally, the school will increase the amount of scholarship that all Virginia residents who attended Liberty receive. Ritz said, "The university is continuing to try to attract more students who are academically strong." Ritz said, "This is good for the school and good for the students."

High school valedictorians and salutatorians must have an unweighted grade-point average of 3.5 and an ACT or SAT score of 29 or 1300, respectively, in order to be eligible to receive the full tuition scholarships now being offered, according to Ritz.

The Academic Achievement Scholarship will also offer full tuition for students who have a 3.5 GPA.

See INCREASE, A3
**CIA recruits**

**Joseph Park**
ypky at liberty.edu

Representatives from the CIA visited Liberty University on Feb. 25 to meet with prospective students seeking jobs in visual arts, graphic design, and communications.

According to the Helms School of Gov- ernment, CIA recruiters went in under cover, wanting to see their skills to develop into a professional career within the agency. Many students who were approached for the CIA as 25 years as the director of art, opened the floor to share his appreciation for the large crowd of students.

"It's wonderful to see the talent in this country," Hernandez said. "However, the turnout was not what I expected. I am disappointed for the high turnout that I wish with students here." Hernandez provided students with an overview about what to expect when they apply to the CIA.

"The work for my team and I often involves getting into the heads of the government," she said "and that's one of our distinctives here." Hernandez said that the art department within the CIA does involve skills according to their specialization.

"We have photographers, graphic de- signers, production officers, publication officers, and many more," she said, "all of those who put it into our work to consider and finally, video producers." Hernandez said that "there are disciplines that ultimately encompass our multimedia production operations, where all of those professionals and create a career service for the CIA."

Another unique aspect of their jobs, according to Hernandez, is "a low-key, low-pres- surized role in unique, private institutions, are welding with tissue that are crucial to the world."

"We are with topics that are important in the U.S. government. We are trying to get in there, but it's like coming," Hernandez said. "We are excited to partner with others when they need them for the same role that catches the eye of the audience." Hernandez said that "we are making prototypes, videos, producing infographics and creating charts and graphs for reports on some of the topics that can help students when working for the CIA during the department."

Michael Wood, the production man- ager for the CIA's interactive content and production center, hired the prerequisites required for someone to be qualified for a job at the CIA.

"As long as there are an American citizen, be able to work with our tools, have a defense background, have a DOD/CIPA and be proficient in various graphic arts programs, like Photoshop," Wood said. "They had to be cleared by the CIA." Wood also said that "they have to bring down basic some information that people interested in working at the CIA will need to have their background check." Wood said that "we are not employing right now because Congress has not given me the hiring permission for the right year. But for the foreseeable future, these ideas interested, go to work, go back and take the application process," Wood said.

PHILS is a news reporter.

**Letter delivery will be cut from six days to a week, beginning Aug. 5**

Courtney Sharp
sharp at liberty.edu

The United States Postal Service (USPS) recently announced that it would reduce mail delivery to five days a week, an argument that made regular Tuesday deliveries for Saturday deliveries are to be eliminated.

Liberty University Postal Services and students left letters and five days a week, Monday through Friday, according to the Liberty University Postal Service website. Postal specialists are "as improved and accommodate the delivery of different types of shipping," the USPS said. It is important that updating the policy is still handled just like it is on Fridays of the week.

According to Wood, current library mail policy is to send back mail and packages that arrive at the post office within two weeks.

"Some things change and grandparents take the time to send some things and we have to simply send it back," Wood said.

Non-mailing members of the student body are taking the use of the mail service and often turn packages in two weeks.

"It's a shame that parents and grandparents take the time to send some things and we have to simply send it back," Wood said.

Non-mailing members of the student body are taking the use of the mail service and often turn packages in two weeks.

MAIL — Liberty student Erin Kay receives her packages at the post office in the library in Lynchburg, Virginia. Lindsey, a Liberty senior exercise science major, said, "I can't picture having classes and picking up my stuff. The post office is that fun." The post officer began accepting法兰克 Cash's furniture purchase post card and has seen an increase among students, according to the Liberty University website.

"We are happy to be able to make it to the post office," the USPS posted on Facebook.

While the change in delivery days has made a lot of parents and grandparents turn the time to send some things, we have to simply send it back," Wood said.

Despite hundreds of changes and many mailing changes to return to some of the day, Lindsey, a Liberty senior exercise science major, said, "I can't picture having classes and picking up my stuff. The post office is that fun." The post officer began accepting法兰克 Cash's furniture purchase post card and has seen an increase among students, according to the Liberty University website.

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With the final steel beam now installed in the Jerry Falwell Library, the structure is beginning to resemble a Finished product, as building crews continue in the construction process.

"It has been very much on schedule," Associate Dean of the Integrated Learning Resource Center ILC Finnell Walters said. As of Feb. 14, crews had at least two eastwell leaves left to pour for the building and were starting to work on some of the interior walls, according to Walters.

When construction work completes, the ILC will begin the delicate process of preparing the transition from the old library to the new.

The automated storage and retrieval system (ASRS) better known as the robot system, will contain more than 400,000 items. The resources should be cataloged, but not go into the system will be split between two locations - both the traditional, two-story reading room and the reference book area, Walters said.

Walters also confirmed that the system will conserve space, allowing for more study rooms and overall space usage.

"We can do a lot of different things that we really didn't have the space to do as in the old Library," Dean of the ILRC Molly Pridel said according to Walters, as the new robotic system, the ILC is setting a four-minute turn around in regards to getting the items from storage to the customer.

Students were previously limited to the first floor Library of Dr. Moss which it came to reading books, unlike the old, the book was checked out, Walters said. With the new retrieval system, students will no longer be so limited.

"The books will be able to flow through most of the building and the building is open," Walters said.

This system will allow for students to take full advantage of the Library's massive space to meet their needs, according to Walters.

"In the new library, we're going to be creating an environment that can meet the diverse needs of students in a better fashion than what we were able to do here in the old library," Pridel said. According to construction plans, the new library will seat more than 2,200 students, about 10 percent of the university's future projected goal of 29,000 residential students.

"We believe this facility will become the bridge between Liberty's original vision for academic excellence and the final fulfillment of that vision," Chancellor Jerry Falwell Jr. said. The grand opening of the Jerry Falwell Library is prepared for fall 2015.

BARTLETT is a news reporter.
Tendency to waste food is trashy

Signs posted at the Reber-Thomas Dining Hall educate students about the magnitude of food thrown away daily

Gabrielle Fuller
Ful11er07@georgiasouthern.edu

Wasting what we have been blessed with is a problem. For the past two weeks, signs posted around the dining hall have served as an alarming reminder to be more efficient. We have come toward wasting food.

The returns announce a recently-developed initiative by Sustainability to significantly reduce food waste on campus. According to Jake Polk, marking manager of Dining Services, mandated on a study in which just how much student's threw away in order to prove that waste is steadily in increase on Liberty’s campus.

“We were trying to think of a way that we could very simple-ly show the student’s impact that they could have on campus, as we decided to measure how much food waste they had within the lunch period for five days,” Polk said.

The results were shocking for just five days, between the hours of 11 a.m. and 2:50 p.m. the dining hall absorbed approximately 1,000 pounds of food waste. Yes, you read that correctly- over 1,000 pounds of food was discarded in less than four hours.

I am genuinely shocked to realize just how much waste can be caused by our simple actions as students. The signs posted at the Reber-Thomas Dining Hall serve as a call to action. Liberty, we can do better.

We have all been instilled with these two phrases calling to us and protect the earth. One of the most cogent ways to stirring this logic as nothing more than a warning for the oppor-
tune task of global warming.

The truth is that whether we agree with environmental preservation or not, we each hold a level of responsibility for the planet. We need to hold the promise of being worth-while and not living our lives as a biblically true task of inconvenience.

“Onecare fulfills the role of being earth’s stewards, which all our efforts are for our own disposal,” Polk said. “The main goal of the Dining Services is not to throw the food away, but to ensure that there is enough for everyone."

Now, I know that as students, we are always looking to cut corners in our daily lives. Every time we walk through the back halls of DeLesseps, a new product that’s advertised piques interest. There are hundreds of activities, social, career and for fun options that get us all on top of busy college schedules.

The solution to waste management is a simple one, though. As students, we need to be more aware of our surroundings. It’s not enough to快速发展, but you can put the food away. Though you may not be single-
ly responsible for the $3 billion of food that the National Resources Defense Council boasted goes to waste worldwide each year, you are accountable for your own actions, your own plate.

It may not seem like much, but every plate of food contributes to the earth.

Here is the good news; you are not in this alone. Students are doing just as well as anyone in reducing waste. Beyond the signs hanging to bring this issue to the forefront of students’ minds, several other programs exist now for the first time.

"There is this emphasis on campus gardens, and we’ve looked to small gardens on to doing this because we can also use these herbs in our own personal use," Polk said. And then also doing what we can to actually replenish some of that out with some of our wasted food," Polk vowed.

You can also look forward to the celebration of Earth Day Monday, April 22. A new program entitled "Gather" will aim to gather inside students in the sustainability effort. Along with these actions to reduce consumption, dining services are beginning offering sample cups at the main dish foods. So if you see something you have never had before, try giving it a taste before you put it on your plate.

As Americans accustomed to consumption, our country is a whole task in the department of responsible ownership. In a nation where the majority of concerns comes from consuming too many calories, it is doubly ex-
cratic that we don’t waste food. Imagine the impact, though, that Liberty could have if we decided to get involved with a society much broader than consumerism.

I think that if the greater com-
unity outside of this campus is starting to catch on to the values that our university holds, it is a great step for the world in doing something about food. As students, we need to realize that we are taking care of the environment, I think right now," Polk said. "I think we are taking it seriously."

"So do you what you think, Liberty? Let us accept the challenge and start making a difference in the world around us.

To find out specific ways to get involved, log on to sustain-
abilityga.org. A website that provides information, strate-
gies and tips to improve ways we can do better.

FULLER is an opinion writer.
The renowned comedy show's parody commercial depicting Jesus Christ as a vigilante murderer was a classless display.

One can only deduce that Christians are not vocal enough about how reprehensible this kind of humor is. God frequently comes out of the danger of misrepresents them. Even the most base of invasions in the Bible the Ten Commandments, which is not to take the Lord's name in vain. While it is unlikely that the formation of a petition or a boycott would come to the show's cancellation, or even cause damage for that matter, this is no excuse for humor. Television executives think twice before committing memes because they fear the backlash, but it seems that Christian public reactions to this type of humor are not being enough to make this work.

Decision to raise minimum wage is not worth it

The proposed increase, the first since 2009, would be harmful to low-income workers and the economy.

The other option companies can choose to increase revenue, which means that they will have to increase their prices on the good and services.

Unanimously in almost every area of the economy have minimum wage employers, which means that the cost of most basic services will go up. Everything from food to clothing to books for people by an amount of 20%. Wages benefit to shares of these companies as they maintain their profits.

"Prices magnificently increase in response to minimum wage changes," recent in 2009 in the Journal of Human Resources source concluded.

The only winner in the minimum wage increase is the politicians who are able to play off doing something good for the people, it is nothing other than a public relations move to win votes.

Regardless of the response to minimum wage increases, it is not a policy that will help the poor or the working poor. It is not possible to live legally people out of poverty. If someone wants to work more and earn more, by working minimum wage, then they have to lean in a ruby flip flop and get into a better situation.

We want to be a community where everyone is paid exactly the same amount, there will be people who are paid more and other others who are paid less.

The result of the proposed minimum wage increase is that wages will go up, not just at the cost of living costs and that an inflation that negate all benefits of increased wages. It is a positive proposal designed by economists that will achieve nothing but to help some people. A living basic, but there is no way that we can ever raise the minimum wage concern level, that it will go beyond and it is not going to reflect or affect the economy.

TELLER'S is a opinion editorial.
ROTC wins MacArthur award

Melanie Oslieck
melanie@librarytimes.org

Liberty University’s ROTC Battalion and the University of Virginia’s ROTC Battalion program was recently recognized for their outstanding achievements, both in academics and military exercises.

In 2001, Liberty’s Eagle Battalion was re-established to partner with UVA’s Citadel Battalion, which is based out of Charlottesville, to form one program, in 2001, according to the ROTC website.

Every year, the MacArthur award is given to a battalion, and this year marks the first time that Liberty and UVA have been recognized. This award takes into consideration the academic and military performance of the Army ROTC units, including their GPA’s and their performance at the Leadership Development and Assessment Course, which cadets participate in between the summer of their third and fourth rotations.

According to Capt. Eason, who is the Recruiting Officer for the Virginia UVA program, this was the first time Liberty was nominated for the award because they were not in the rotation at the time the award was given. However, this year, Eason and UVA were both nominated.

According to Capt. Eason, the winning program is chosen based on the outstanding qualities of the candidates and their willingness to be part of something larger than themselves. Eason and UVA being selected is a great reflection of the tremendous talent, cadre, and staff who make the cadets and help ensure the program functions remarkably well.

The MacArthur Award was a wonderful way to recognize the hard work of so many people who make the program succeed, according to Eason.

“Obviously it’s an honor for both units,” said Eason. “I think this award validates those claims.”

Eason said that many of the students who are interested in military or law enforcement careers are driven by the "fun" of being able to serve in different capacities and wear the uniform. Eason also said that ROTC is a great way to prepare students for their future careers and show them that their dreams are possible.

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Kyle Harvey

Jazz Ensemble travels to Windy City

Jazz University competitive musicians participated in the Elmhurst College Jazz Festival in Chicago

FESTIVAL—Jazz Ensemble members perform along with 30 other colleges and universities from all across the country before a crowd of roughly 1,000 people.

Kerr said, "In addition to the traditional big band instrumentation, the Jazz Ensemble has formed vocal Jazz Ensembles on two pieces." Perlman thought the inclusion of a vocal was a novel idea. "The interaction between the vocals and the band was the soloist with the choir was great," he said. "She came in, gave the audience face and personality that few could replace. Rather than playing a face out of a large ensemble, she did her part in front telling them, a story."

According to Kerr, the competitive band raster at Liberty was a long time in the making. "The trip to Chicago was the beginning of the story," in the progression of a group band headed to the Midwest more serious entertainment and sociology. "For a long time, Jazz was thought of as a genre that was not appropriate for a Christian school," he said.

According to Kerr, the Jazz Ensemble was "duty visited out of the basket full pop band," the course of a decade. Until this year, the pop band and the Jazz Ensemble were composed of the same musicians. In its full, the group played jazz concerts. In the spring, the group will play a couple of jazz gigs, but the focus switched to basketball exhibitions.

The group played the "last time to form a dress and jazz ensemble," and a stand-alone pop band. Kerr said, "I think that's what's going on in the world."
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At a glance

- The Flames victory against the Governors was their first-ever BracketBusters series win.
- As a team, Liberty scored 40 of its 79 points in the paint against Austin Peay.
- JR Coronado had his third double-double of the year with 10 points and grabbed 16 rebounds, which is a Liberty Wins Center record.
- With three threes against the Governors, Davis Marshall moved into fourth place for three-point field goals in a single season (77).
- John Caleb Sanders has averaged 20.9 points, 6.1 assists and 5.6 rebounds in the last six games.
- Tavares Speaks has averaged 10.5 points in the last four games.

**Freeze frames**

**Track's sweet 16th**

Emily Brown
libertysports@liberty.edu

Liberty continued to dominate in the Big South Track and Field Indoor Championships Feb. 21 and 22, bringing home a men’s conference championship title for the 16th straight year. The women’s squad captured second place in the competition, finishing behind Coastal Carolina. The Liberty men coasted to an easy victory in the 2013 conference championships. The Flames tallied 163.5 points over the two days of competition, with their closest competitor finishing 63 points back. Liberty handled the field in the conference meet. The men’s team received a significant number of points after posting five-place finishes in three different events.

Redshirt senior Junior Smith led the way for the Flames in the field. Smith threw the 30-1.25, almost six feet farther than the second-place finisher, to capture an individuals victory in the shot put. The win was Smith’s fourth consecutive victory in the indoor event. But, oh, this was a moral challenge in not cracking under pressure," Smith said. "I needed the competition on the very first throw and had a few misses to build a big throw in the last place.

Smith continued his success in the long jump, breaking a new school record. The redshirt senior’s 5.643 was far enough to secure second place. Senior Tavares Speaks also received 23.0 team points in the pole vault. Redshirt freshman Cody Bingham cleared 15.5 for first place in the event, while redshirt senior Cody Bridges finished runners-up.

**LU recalls Governors**

**Flames outlast Austin Peay State University, win in overtime**

Steven Sullivan
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The Liberty Flames basketball team faced off against the Austin Peay State University Governors in the Ramsada Worldwide BracketBuster series, Saturday, Feb. 23. The Flames prevailed 79-73 in overtime.

**Introduction of Austin Peay made two late three-pointers in the second half, to steal the game and the Flames second overtime game of the season. Liberty made all eight of their free throws in the overtime to defeat Austin Peay. The Governors averaged 77.3 points a game and in the first half; they almost matched that average with six. Both teams ended the first half shooting 50 percent from the field, but Liberty was down by eight. Small free throws and three pointers by Liberty contributed to this early deficit. "During the first half, we exchanged baskets, and it was kind of hard to get a lead," Tavares Speaks said. In the second half, Head Coach Dale Layer made some necessary changes in order to help get the team back on an eight-point deficit. "Our defense intensity and rebounding in the second half were the difference in the game," Layer said. "They got into a rhythm in the first half, and I thought we broke their rhythm."

See RAMADA, B4

See HISTORY, B4

**Flames ousted from tourney**

Liberty falls in the second round to James Madison in OT

Michael Williams
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Liberty University forward Chad Buchanan placed a perfect shot behind the Radford University goal­ then- to clinch the Blue Ridge Hockey Conference (BRHC) first-round victory over the Highlanders, 6-3. However, Liberty was defeated by James Madison University 4-3 in overtime. Throughout the evening, the Flames DII hockey team looked sluggish and was having trouble getting into the offensive end, thanks to Radford’s strong and stingy defense. "They (Radford) weren’t going to roll over on us," Head Coach Tristan Chambers said. Seven minutes into the game, the Flames finally broke the defense when captain Brandon Carlson rocketed in a loose rebound. Radford answered back when a clearing shot depois by goaltender John Hyland, tying the game, 1-1. The Highlanders took advantage on a power play in the final moments of the game as Nick Peters dropped one.

See TOURNEY, B4

**SUSPENSE— Josh Kiszla billion for a contest against Radford.**

**We’ll see you at the game**

M. Basketball vs. Virginia Military Inst.
Feb. 26 @ 7 p.m.

Softball vs. Hampton
Feb. 27 @ 2 & 4 p.m.

W. Basketball vs. Coastal Carolina
Feb. 28 @ 7 p.m.

Baseball vs. Army
March 1 @ 3 p.m.

Baseball vs. Sienna
March 2 @ 3 p.m.
Flames take series from the Penn State Nittany Lions in the much anticipated public debut of new ballpark

Greg Leasure
gleasure@liberty.edu

Game One
Red-tailed hawks soared in the stands, and more than 2,500 fans crowded into Chancellor Jerry Falwell, Jr.,’s newly opened first pitch. About three hours later Liberty Flames pitcher Adam Pettit rocketed back and gave a 9-1 rout football past Penn State University, 3-2, Calhoun, and it was over.

The Flames beat the Penn State Nittany Lions in a score of 3-2 Saturday afternoon in the inaugural game at the Liberty Baseball Stadium, improving their overall record to 2-2.

“Not a great crowd,” and we played liberty solid defense, “Liberty Head Coach Jim Tomlin said. “Penn State is quality pitching, and they had a senior pitcher on the mound who pitched very well, so we were very fortunate to win the game and be proud of the guys, and it was just a great environment.”

The team did not practice on the new field before the flag game Saturday, but according to Liberty’s first baseman Alex Wilhoit, the atmosphere was excellent with a crowd in the stands.

“It was a blast,” Cleary said. “We’ve never lost at this field. That’s what Jeff Bailey said after the game. It was on fire.”

The Nittany Lions made the first out of the game in the top of the first inning, but Flames center fielder Ryan Coletti woke up from his off season with a double down the left field line – the first Flames hit in the new stadium. The Flames knocked the score up one at one time during that first inning and would later take the lead.

“We wanted to open up the stadium the right way and get a win,” Cleary added. “A lot of our guys played really well, so the players did great. It was nice to get a win in our first game here.”

Catcher and team captain Trey Willet not only nailed one out in the first, the he certainly made it count. Penn State relief pitcher Chidy Lesio got one out in the seventh inning before loading the bases, but Wimmer then hit a hard ground ball to third base that deflected off the Penn State player’s glove and was caught in left field for a measure single.

An infield hit by Nick Benson later than inning would virtual Liberty’s lead to 4-1, but Wimmer’s single turn out to the game winning hit.

“It was a lot of fun,” Wimmer said. “I will remember that for a long time.”

According to Wimmer, the team appreciated having more fans to support the team in the new stadium, and it was not alone in his appreciation for the team’s first victory. Flames players took to Twitter and Facebook almost immediately after the game to give their thanks to the people who attended the home opener despite 90-degree temperatures.

Flames pitcher Carson Holtz lowered the temperature more than five innings on the mound, striking out six and allowing only one run. Relief pitchers Matt Murphy, Robert Gray, and Adam Pettit helped Holtz down the win and combined to hold Penn State to only seven hits over five innings.

“We have four or five different guys who can, and we decided to go with March and the matchup lefty, Gray, and Pettit today,” Tomlin said. “It worked, so I’m happy to see that.”

According to Liberty Athletic Director Jeff Bailey, construction on the new stadium will continue throughout the season, but it should be completed when the Flames host the Big South Conference Championship Tournament in May.

Game Two
The Flames took both games Sunday. July 21, winning the first 12-3 and the second 6-1, and concluding the home opening series with a sweep.

MEMORABLE – (Top) A view of the Liberty monogram from the stands. Bottom left) Senior infielder Dason Spry (5) had two hits and an RBI in the final game of the series. Bottom right) Flames players look toward the field from the dugout.

In the first game of two, Liberty agreed with 5-0 lead in the third inning finished off six. After Penn State came within two in the top of the sixth inning, Liberty added seven runs in run on a two-run hit. Wimmer led the Flames with three RBIs off two hits.

Game Three
In the final game of the afternoon and the series, Wimmer continued to hit big, going 3-for-3 with two doubles and a triple. Liberty added three runs in the second inning. Justin Shumaker was walked to start the game by Penn State pitch Tar-
The Liberty Flames baseball team marked the beginning of its new season on Friday, Feb. 22 with a 6-1 win over Penn State in the new Liberty Baseball Stadium. After finishing second in the Big South Tournament last year, the Flames have their sights set on winning a Big South Championship in May — this time on their home turf.

The team got off to a decent start with victories against the South Carolina Gamecocks and the Penn State Nittany Lions. Not according to first baseman Alex Close, the Flames have yet to reach their full potential. “I think we need to swing it better,” Close said. “I think we can. We’re not there yet. We’ve got the guys who can do it. We just need to get comfortable.”

Although the team finished second to Coastal Carolina in the Big South Conference last year, Close said that the team remains focused on taking care of things one day at a time. “We get too caught up in worrying about Coastal,” Close said. “If we just play our game, we’re going to beat them.”

If the Flames want to meet that goal, they will have to compensate for the five crucial pieces that they lost to either graduation or the Major League Baseball draft. Despite losing just part of their lineup, the Flames baseball team is confident that a new wave of talent can replace just players. The Texas Rangers selected starting pitcher John Nippel, the ace of last year’s team, in the ninth round of the draft in June 2012, but Coupon Velez will take over as the Friday night go-to starter in 2013.

The Toronto Blue Jays selected outfielder Kim Bundy in the seventh round of the draft, leaving the Flames with the task of finding a new leadoff hitter, and junior outfielder Nick Patton has stepped into that role. The Flames also lost relief pitcher Blake Forlond to the draft as well as shortstop Zach Duke and outfielder Michael Roberts in graduation. “I think we’re just well-rounded,” junior outfielder Ryan Goddell said. “We’ve got some good leadership. Our referees, I think, are really good. They’re going to come in late in the games and do well. We’ve got a lot of power at the plate hitting-wise, and our defense has been solid so far.”

Cardell was named the Big South Player of the Week for the first week of the season after allowing six hits and five RBIs against the No. 3 Gamecocks. As the Flames get used to a new stadium and new teammates, their goal remains the same — to bring home a Big South Championship.

LEASURE is the feature editor.

Liberty’s pursuit of the crown
After a 41-19 record last season, the Flames are predicted to finish first in the Big South Conference in ‘13

The Liberty Flames baseball team marked the beginning of an era Saturday, Feb. 22, with a 6-1 win over Penn State in the new Liberty Baseball Stadium. After finishing second in the Big South Tournament last year, the Flames have their sights set on winning a Big South Championship in May — this time on their home turf.

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Flames blank Bears

Liberty's 7-0 win against Morgan State improves its record 4-1

"This win shows how good of a team we are and how we can come out and dominate against a team we should not lose to."

The Liberty Flames defeated the Morgan State Bears (0-6, Mid-Eastern, 7-6),weekday, Feb. 22, denying the Bears their first win of the season.

The Flames 4-1 record this season is equivalent to its best five-game streak in program history.

"The last time we started the year with a 4-1 record was in 1991," so glad to be part of a team that has a ton of talent," junior Shea Thomas said.

Junior quarterback and punter Chandler Vaughn started their two-game losing streak with a win over Morgan State's Eric Ward and James Tosh, improving their record to 5-2 this season.

Even Samuel and Thomas won the Flames over for Liberty's fourth win of the season. Senior quarterback and punter Cale Gill and quarterback and punter Cale Gill also contributed to the Flames' 1-5-2 record.

The Flames started the season with a 4-1 record last year, scoring 10 touchdowns in the first five games of the year.

"I think this win was against Morgan State. They were in the first round of the NCAA Division I-A postseason, but we should not lose to them," Thomas said. "We're looking to take this momentum into our season matchup against Longwood. We want to keep bringing our level of play to each and every match as it is our first our conference match win on the season."

The Flames will play their first Big South Conference game against Longwood University on Friday, Feb. 8 at 7 p.m.

TYREE, in a sports report.

HISTORY continued from B1

The highlight for the Flames was the hand of sophomore My- chelle Cummings. Her 5-1-3-2-5 four-year run placed her first in the 100-meter run with a time of 11.37.00. Teammate Khes- tina Kanaggy finished second in the 300-meter run with a time of 36.50. The Flames' 400-meter relay broke down the final of the conference title. Cummings recorded the win as the Big South Women's Outstanding Field Performer.

Kanaggy also improved his field with a fieldwalk finish in the high jump. The junior cleared 5-3 to secure the victory.

On the track, distance runner Joyce Thompson crossed the finish line first in the 5000-meter run with a time of 10:01.32. Teammate Khes- tina Kanaggy finished second in the 300-meter run and took the win with a time of 36.50. The Flames' 400-meter relay broke down the final of the conference title.

"The team just went out and performed as we expected," Arndt said. "We're going to run a fantastic split and put the team in a great place to win, but everybody did what was necessary to come out on top."

The Lady Flames brought home six events for the second straight meet. The Flames have the second straight victory with a win over Morgan State in the second straight meet. The Flames have lost only three times.

"We're really happy to have a very deep team, so even though we didn't win any of our projected events, we still won hands down," Arndt said.

The team's victory helped the Flames secure another consecutive win in the second meet. The Flames' victory marked the strongest string of consecutive victories in any sport in the Big South. Liberty's record also marks the second-longest active streak of NCAA Division I-A's indoor track and field championships.

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What goes into a vaccine?

Each year, medical professionals manufacture a vaccine for influenza viruses currently circulating in the flu, but opinions vary about the effectiveness of this preventative measure. While not a guarantee, a vaccine dramatically reduces your odds of getting the flu, but whether a person chooses to obtain the vaccine is based on personal factors and the individual's health status.

What is influenza and how is it treated?

Influenza is a viral respiratory disease caused by various types of influenza viruses, which cause symptoms such as fever, cough, and muscle aches.

Antibiotics may be prescribed to treat complications, such as bacterial pneumonia, which can develop in some cases.

Prevention and control

There are several steps you can take to prevent influenza:

- Get vaccinated annually.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick to avoid spreading the virus to others.

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What is the role of the CDC in fighting the flu?

The CDC is responsible for monitoring the flu and making recommendations on vaccination strategies. They provide guidelines for vaccine manufacturers and healthcare providers for the production of effective flu vaccines.

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Emilly Webster
cofounder, Liberty elfs

"Liberty University's Career Center, a partnership resource for students seeking an internship or job now presents opportunities in the direction of LUNETWORK as an online tool that helps connect them to possible employers."

Matt Meevey, an LUNETWORK coordinator, said that students wishing to begin the internship or job searching process should report to LUNETWORK because it creates connections between students and employers based everywhere from internship to other careers.

Meevey believes that students need to be more aware of the importance of networking in their future, whether it is for an internship or for a job.

"LUNETWORK, in our opinion, we really owe ourselves to making contacts with people of influence or some of the most prestigious companies in America," Meevey said. "They serve as our path and put positions on LUNETWORK specifically for the Liberty community. So if the student isn't on LUNETWORK, they are not being reached.

Although some students might be focused on internships as requirements for graduation, internships can also be stepping stones to securing a job.

"I think it's very beneficial," said Emily Lee, a senior communications professor and coordinator at the Student Success Department and the Career Center. "It's important for students to acquire an internship as close to graduation as possible.

Third Day continued from B6

have probably lived concert tickets of Estherville."

An admitted fan of country music, Tiller said that she has received them in love from Third Day fans.

"I just love to listen to their music," Tiller said. "You can tell that they love God because they give their testimonies wherever they go and they have a lot of fun with this." 

Opening acts Josh Wilson and March Fourth also performed. Wilson warmed up the crowd before Third Day played songs from their new album, "Miracle," and a few classics that kept the crowd on their feet during the show along.

During one of the intermissions, the band's bassist, Eric Anderson, talked about the memories of the band's 21st trip to Iowa. "The band's time and energy spent on this trip in order to assist World Help to provide help for children in need all over the world. According to Anderson, Third Day has sponsored more than 70,000 children through the band's 15 years working with World Help.

About halfway through the performance, Third Day lead singer Mac Powell shared a story that a New Jersey couple once told him about their son. According to Powell, the boy had planned to commit suicide before hearing Third Day's "Stay Out of Hell" on the radio and changed his mind. According to the band's website, this story became the inspiration for the song "New Life, A Miracle."

Elizabeth Kurtz also performed with the Student Activities Board, and she had worked on an attended more than 10 Student Activities Board events, but that Friday's event carried a little more emotion than usual. "It's a lot for them, and it's a lot for everyone here, for Third Day. It was beautiful because the band is all excited, it's been fun."

According to Third Day's website, the band has been on tour since November and has played at least 25 shows in 2013. The band will release their latest album, "Climb," on March 25. "It's just cool that that caliber of band is willing to come in Liberty and clicked to come to Liberty," Kurtz said. "I think they have big fan bases here, as well as just enjoying coming to a college that has a lot of atmosphere.

Third Day also joined in with the "Harlem Shake" video craze with participants including Colin Dixon, Josh Wilson and the CBWM crew to create an original version of this dance. The video begins with Wilson dancing in a penguin suit at the side of the TEDX stage and ends with Dixon, Third Day and the entire audience going crazy with different dance moves.

The audience chose Third Day back for an encore to the show, but for one member of the audience, one more minute of music was waiting to be discovered.

Tiller and her best friend spent most of their time near the stage during the performance, so when guitarists Mark Lee jumped on his guitar pick out into the crowd, they were given the perfect keepsake to remember their night. Unfortunately, the light shining inside caused the pick almost impossible, and they thought it was lost until her friend discovered the small, yellow piece of plastic stuck, and his was the warm of her shirt after the show. Tiller said that she expects to attend Liberty this fall, and, though she spends much time downtown at her job, Tiller, she would not need a job to return her to life's elaborate experiences — just a small, yellow piece of plastic.

LEASURE is the feature edition.

THIRD DAY without the 3rd day currently touring the country to promote their 12th album.

F.Y.I.
The Harlem Shake video made by Third Day, Calvin Dixon, Josh Wilson and the audience of TEDxB was featured on YouTube under the title: "The Harlem Shake — 3rd Day Miracle Tour."
The Liberty University School of Engineering and Computational Sciences hosts the VEX Robotics Competition

Greg Leasure
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Research coordinated by
Daniel Becket
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Some of Central Virginia's young engineering minds met at the Liberty Christian Academy for the VEX Robotics Competition Saturday, Feb. 23. Hosted by the Liberty University School of Engineering and Computational Sciences (SECS) for the fifth consecutive year, the event pits 30 teams of high school students against one another in a competition of skills all.

Although the objectives are different every year, the goal this time around was for teams to use their robots to accomplish the task of moving and placing beanbags in different locations in a game called Back Track. Participants spent the morning learning allow with each other, and after a qualifying round, the final four determined the winners.

According to Scott Pleasants, the SECS director of engineering technology, VEX Robotics hosts numerous competitions around the globe that are as qualifying events for the VEX World Championships. Only the top two teams from each competition move on to the national championship, but Pleasants said that teams are allowed to enter as many competitions as they want in order to qualify for the World Championships, provided that they pay the entry fees.

According to Pleasants, representatives from the United States Air Force helped judge the competition, looking for students who displayed qualities such as teamwork or outstanding performance. Additional prizes, such as iPads and MacBook Airs, were contributed by sponsors of the competition that were also raffled off. The Twistd Botz and Aluminum Falcon teams took home the top trophies Saturday, earning a position in the VEX World Championships.

Kenyi Q. Lee, a senior and team captain for Central Christian School, made the trip to Lynchburg from Washington, D.C. to represent the Air Force at the event, and as someone who uses math, science and engineering on the job, he said that it is essential it is for students to enter these fields of study.

"Really, what we're involved in here is game-changing people in the sense that they're going to go off and do great things for America," Chaudhary said.

According to him, game-changing people in science is even more necessary for America right now due to competition with other countries.

"We're not in 1 math and science anymore, so when you develop game-changing programs, that's what turns America around and builds a spirit of innovation that has come to be a tradition in America," Chaudhary said.

The VEX competition emphasizes students' STEM skills — science, technology, engineering and math — that Pleasants said are in high demand by employers today.

According to Pleasants, Liberty gave SEECS a total of $48,000 in financial aid to award high school students from the competition, not to mention the $1,000 from the Air Force that was given for outstanding character, teamwork and performance.

"Regardless of whether student pursues a career in the military or engineering, technical or non-technical degrees, the concept of innovation will never be lost in these individuals because of the VEX Robotics experience," Chaudhary said.

Liberty student Timothy Vernon, who helped set up Saturday's competition, took home a scholarship of his own as a senior in high school in 2009. According to him, the competition became a principal reason behind his decision to attend school at Liberty.

"It's really neat to see these kids come out here and see their designs and how they compete," Vernon said.

Caroline Bartmann, a spectator at the event, said that the competition turned out differently than her expectations.

"It's more intense than I thought it was going to be," Bartmann said. "You get into it really easily. It takes more strategy than I thought!"

According to Pleasants, the creativity displayed in the competition and by engineers in general reflects the creativity of the original engineer — God.

Time will tell how many students from Saturday's competition will find their way into a permanent VEXS department, but in the eyes of Pleasants, Saturday's competition showed that the future of the field is bright.

LEASURE is the feature editor.

BARTLETT is a feature reporter.
Raising a song of praise

Lauren Sweeney tells her story, from a dream to a reality

Sophia Hahn
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“Walking onto the stage for the first convocation of the year brought me to a new place of utter humility that God would choose to use me in this way,” Lauren Sweeney, the lead female vocalist on the Liberty University Campus Band, said.

Sweeney, a junior in the worship program, always felt that she was supposed to come to Liberty and be on a ministry team, but this calling took her longer to accomplish than she had anticipated.

Since high school, Sweeney has always been involved in leading worship with her school and church. When she attended College for a Weekend (CEW) at Liberty, she realized that she wanted to use the talent God gave her to help transform lives.

“I remember coming to College for a Weekend in my junior year, and when I was in high school and singing in the Voice Center du- ing convocation,” Sweeney said. “I was overwhelmed. I was moved, and I thought, ‘God, that’s what I want to do.’”

During her senior year of high school, Sweeney returned to Liberty to try out for a ministry team. However, she did not make it.

Instead of attending liberty that fall, Sweeney enrolled in a local Christian college in Chesapeake, Va.

Soon after her first audition, Sweeney came back to Liberty for another chance at her calling. Once again, she did not make it.

Craig Osterhus, who works in Liberty’s Music Ministris, remembered Sweeney from her auditions. According to Osterhus, each time Sweeney came to tryout, she had brought into the room God’s gift of love.

“When I saw her audition mate- rials, I was struck by what a gifted worship leader she was,” Osterhus said. “There are tons of gifted musicians and singers who don’t get chosen for a team simply because there is no opening at the time for what they have to offer.”

According to Sweeney, with some encouragement from her parents, she decided to try out one last time during her sophomore year of college.

“I remember minutes before the audition, just praying in my heart that if this is where you Lord wanted me to be, that He would open the door wide open,” Sweeney said.

“After the last time auditioning, God opened the door, and I transferred to Liberty to be on the ministry team, Faith.”

At the end of her first year with Faith, Sweeney received a phone call from Justin Martin, the Campus Band worship pas- sor, inviting her to be a part of the Campus Band. According to Sweeney, as the mood on the front steps of DeMoss, she was too overcome with emotion that she began to cry right there.

“It was such a journey to even get to Liberty, and now to have this kind of opportunity was an overwhelming blessing,” Sweeney said.

According to Sweeney, although she looks up to all the members of the band, she sees Kenton as a true mentor.

“She truly loves what he does and is so passionate about his calling.” Sweeney said. “I feel like he is such a man of God, and it has been a blessing to serve this school alongside him.”

Sweeney also serves being a part of Campus Band as an honor.

“When we are in convocation and there are thousands and thousands of college students filling their hands and minds so incredibly, they can’’t help but say, ‘Sing like nev- er before, oh my soul. I’ll wor- ship Your holy name,’ those are my favorite moments,” Sweeney said.

According to Osterhus, Sweeney warns nothing more than a willingness to help people know and worship Christ. He believes that the reason she is so successful about the world is that she leads worship that brings people close to God.

“She has a great voice and a winsome spirit, but she draws you toward loving God and lead- ing to worship him as much as she does,” Osterhus said.

While Sweeney may be unsure of what her future holds after graduation, she knows that she is being led to full-time ministry.

“For much of her last few years of high school and college, Sweeney said, ‘God’s calling is always perfect, and nothing overruled is ever punishments or rewards.’

For other people who have been successful in ministry or church auditions, Sweeney recom- mends that they keep waiting for God and remember Ephesians 5:14: ‘Be Zealous for the work of the Lord, for he desires that all men be saved.’

Sweeney said, ‘It’s possible to do it, but it is also possible to lose touch with who you are. Be who you are as a person and be who you are as a worship leader and as a man or woman.’

“As a result, Sweeney added, ‘I’d like to see more worship leaders who feel excited about leading and voicing the writings of others, who can’’t help but lead emotionally more than all we use and sing, ac- cording to her faith than to be a worship leader in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever, Amen.’

HAIN is a feature reporter.