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Three seniors have high hopes as commencement nears

By Trish Stirsman

Commencement represents the beginning and the end for about 800 Liberty University seniors. These graduates are ending their learning experience at Liberty and just beginning in their chosen careers.

The Liberty Champion talked with three who will receive their Bachelor’s degree on May 4. These seniors discussed their career plans, fondest memories at LU, goals for their future, and advice to the underclassmen.

Career

Stan Bass of Fairfax, Va. will be one of the first three to earn a Bachelor’s degree in computer science from Liberty University. Upon graduation, Stan will continue working for his father’s company in electronics research development.

He has been working on a research project for three years that will be used to control commercial payload in the cargo bay of space shuttles. “My first priority (after graduation) is to get my program that I’ve designed from scratch,” Stan said.

Stan said he is not finished with his education just yet. “I want to do graduate work in electrical engineering. That’s what my real interest is in,” he said.

Lisa Hills from Spartansburg, S.C., is graduating with a major in human ecology. Her immediate plan is to get married in May.

She would like to work in a retirement home counseling the elderly. Although she has this desire, Lisa said, “My main goal is to be able to support my husband in his ministry.”

John Stan Lee plans eventually to do graduate work either in gerontology or counseling.

Mike Rybka will be receiving his Bachelor’s in business administration, but his career plans vary from those of most business majors. “God has called me to be a pastor,” he said.

Mike will be an intern pastor this summer at Wellington Church in Wellington, Fla. In September he will begin the Master of Divinity program at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Chicago.

He said he chose a business major because he was seeking a balance. Mike explained his reasoning: “I’m going to get alot of Bible in seminary, and I thought a liberal arts major would help me in the church and provide balance. I’ve taken courses in business, psychology and sociology.”

-Statistics-

The following is a compilation of a few statistics based on information from the Office of Research.

The top major for the class of 1987 was business administration with 82 enrolled. The top female major for the class of 1987 was graduate Summa Cum Laude, about 27 seniors will receive Magna Cum Laude, and 180 seniors will receive Cum Laude.

These earning bachelor of science degrees number about 576 and nearly 35 will receive bachelor of arts degrees. Approximately 150 will earn master of arts degrees.

An estimated 36 seniors will graduate Summa Cum Laude, about 27 seniors will receive magna Cum Laude and nearly 31 will graduate Cum Laude.

Memories

All seniors graduating will take with them memories of their time at Liberty. Mike explained what he needed the friends that they have made here are special and will never be forgotten.

Lisa has been a resident assistant and working in that program and her dorm. “All RA’s are not stuffy. We have anxieties and need relief too,” she said.

Lisa also met her fiance here. “Greg has been the highlight of the last four years,” she said.

Mike said he enjoys attending a school where he can not only learn but relax and be stupid too. “I remember the Halloween of 1986 because I won the most humorous costume award for displaying the latest in women’s fashion. My roommate also won an award for best dressed cockroach,” Mike explained.

Stan has used his talent on the electric guitar while at LU. “One of the things I’ve enjoyed is working with the band in Dave Adams’ and Dave Randell’s Sunday School class.”

Future of LU

Mike, who is from West Palm Beach, Fla. said that his goals are to see computer fly that I’ve designed. “I’d like to see the school continue to grow and become stronger academically, meanwhile, continuing to attract a student body who is really centered on Christ.”

Stan, who is minoring in mathematics, offered some suggestions for bettering Liberty. “I’d like to see it grow in technical fields like engineering and physics.”

He also said students should be able to take more electives. “There is a lack of opportunity to take electives with the general education, major and minor requirements.”

Advice to underclassmen

The three seniors have words of wisdom that they would like to leave to the underclassmen.

Mike feels that the spiritual growth of students is very important in the future of the school. She would like to see a big sanctuary built for the students to worship in.

She would like to see the master’s program broadened and the selection of majors continue to grow and develop.

Advice to underclassmen

The three seniors have words of wisdom that they would like to leave to the underclassmen.

By Kimberly Lerie

Liberty University missions is concentrating in part on the continent of Africa this year. The Light Singers, a baseball team, Affron Vernon Brewer, will be traveling to Kenya.

Later, PTL will have students, who will work on the Kenya project, spend five months in the country this fall.

The Light Singers and the baseball team will minister in Kenya from May 17 to July 7. They will be singing in church services, evangelizing and helping build churches.

Donna Faircloth will be coordinating the contacts, directing the operations. Director of Health Services Dr. Greg Albers, Director of Housing Gary Aldridge and Jeff Schrack, Andrea Goodwin, Fred Fortune, Brian Sturk, Delbert Jones, and Bill Hawkins.

Their team will run from August to December.

The students will work in churches and hospitals spreading the Gospel. They will also be employed in health management and teaching hygiene education to Kenian people.

“The basic goal is to maintain waterwells and build windmills in Kenya.” Lange said.

The ministry is providing translation, room and board and $100 a month for the personal expenses of team members.

“Take advantage of the diversity of people and programs. "Quit being apathetic and start realizing what true Christianity is. This school is awesome, and we have so much to offer to them,” Lisa said. "God doesn’t set limits on you, it will always be as we set our limits.” Mike explained. "If we are totally dependent upon Him and are faithful in using our talents to the fullest of our ability, then He will continue to expand our horizons.

Gospel teams travel again

By Kimberly Lerie

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PTL reorganizes

Two PTL board members have resigned their positions. Dr. Jerry Falwell announced during a press conference following the morning’s board meeting.

The Reverends Rex Humbard and Richard Durich have left their positions, but Falwell himself will remain as chairman of the board.

It was also announced that the board had decided to terminate Jim Bakker’s salary.

Concerning rumors that Bakker would be returning to the PTL, Falwell said that the present leadership had no intention of stepping down and that he had not discussed the situation with Bakker.

Falwell declined to address questions concerning Bakker’s indoctrination, commenting that the board members felt it was not their place to comment on the issue.
Eternity at Spring Fling for second year

By Carla L. Sturgill

Eternity, a musical group under the direction of the Rev. Joseph Alessi, will be the featured guest at Liberty University's annual "Spring Fling and Concert" to be held from 5 p.m.-7:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 2.

The 16-member group travels more than 70,000 miles every year making appearances world-wide in churches, concert halls, universities, prisons, shopping malls and various other locations.

The group's booking agent, Mark Tatum, said, "I'd describe them as churches, concert halls, universities, of their size. They get better every year."

Eternity, which has been ministering with music and personal testimonies since it originated in 1973, consists of six singers, nine musicians and a sound technician.

Some of the group's more notable performances included live concerts at the Pentagon, Walt Disney World in Florida, the Presidential Palace in Guatemala, and Texas. They have also toured in Honduras and Six Flags over Georgia and Texas. They have also toured Canada, Israel, Mexico, El Salvador and Guatemala.

Eternity, which began in Hollywood, Calif., has been featured with artists such as Carman, Farewell & Farewell, the Imperials, Gary McSpadden, David Meece and Doug Oldham. The group sings both traditional and contemporary music, which can be heard on any of their 16 albums (2 of which are in Spanish). They have recorded the works of performers such as David Meece, the Gaithers, Don Francisco, Gary S. Paxton and Stuart Hambleton.

Adoration Inc. sums up the group in this way: "The vibrance each member of the group projects is, even without words, a powerful testimony of the love of God through their presence. Their lives are the message they've come to bring not just their music."

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The entire evening should last from 8 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. and will include a 15 minute intermission with refreshments between the second and third play.

4 one-act plays provide a break in finals study

By Kelly Wick

The Drama Department is offering students a no-cost escape from academic responsibilities through a series of one-act plays.

Four plays will be performed May 1 and 2 at 8 p.m. in the Lloyd Auditorium.

One of the plays titled, "It's Called the Sugar Plum," is directed by Chris Parton, a drama major and graduating senior.

It's the story of a young Harvard student, Wallace Zukerman, played by Alan Hyma, who while driving a car, accidentally kills a girl's fiance as he is riding a skateboard.

The resulting tragic-comedy involves the confrontation between Zukerman and the girl, played by Pamela Hart. "The play ends in a way you won't believe," Hyma stated.

Another one-act play, "Sociability," is directed by Karen Hamilton, a graduating senior majoring in TV-R and minorin in drama.

The story involves two couples who are virtually the same, but don't quite realize it. The coupled are played by Ross Hayduk, Liane Lewis, Chris Harper, and Karen Hamilton.

"You could call it a battle of the Jones's," Ross Hayduk, a senior drama major in the cast, said. "It's a good example of superficial relationships."

"Louder, I Can't Hear You," by Bill Gleeson, is directed by Mary Anne Kraft, a junior psychology major and drama minor. It involves a mother, portrayed by Kim Harris, who is ignored by her family. The woman is awarded Mother of the Year by her town, but her family doesn't appreciate her. She then goes to a psychiatrist, Kelley Bushey, for help.

The story tells of people's inability to listen, according to Kraft.

Rusty Goodwin, Kathy Scolfield, Mandy Barnett and Sarah Kessler portray the family members. Assistant director for the play is Dawn Gay.

The final play titled "The Bald Soprano," is directed by Heath Crouch, a senior drama major and music minor.

The story involves two older couples: the Smith's, played by Paul Oetting and Penny Rasnake, and the Martin's, played by Amy Colvin and Paul Hogate.

Each is self-absorbed, appearing to be oblivious to the presence of others. "The humor is found in the absurdity of the characters," Rasnake said.

The audience, then, is left to identify with the fire chief, played by Tim Adams, and Mary the Maid, (Brenda Hobert) as they give a sense of meaning to the play by responding to others around them.

Crouch stated, "The cast is very competent and directable. I hope the audience isn't scared by the absurdist element. The play merely seeks to illustrate man's attempt to communiicate via cliché's using a deteriorated, corrupted language."

The entire evening should last from 8 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. and will include a 15 minute intermission with refreshments between the second and third play.

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Senior describes fond memories of Liberty
By Greg Bugley

When I was asked to write a retrospect of my years at Liberty, I wasn't sure where to begin. I've seen quite a few changes in myself over the past four years. My hairline has taken a step back, but I've picked up a few more strands of chest hair. I now shave every day instead of just once a semester the way I did my freshman year, and I've learned to tolerate the taste of coffee and SAGA.

Liberty has changed, too. When I started, DeMoss was a well-tramped sports field and the intramural field was a nesting place for gray squirrels. Blue jeans were taboo my first year, and I saw the 501 blues both semesters. Students boarded golden charters and were bused to Thomas Road every Sunday and Wednesday, and all major sports teams competed in the NAIA.

I think the best part of the four-year trek was being part of progressive change. My rooms were in a different area, and I used to make fun of a SGA candidate who advocated putting phones in dorm rooms. "It'll never happen," I remember saying. Those three words have almost vanished from my syn­tax.

One of the greatest changes I wit­nessed was the attention of university sta­ff. Something about the name Liberty Baptist College just sounded a little too deep to me. The new title seemed to broaden my hori­zon. When I walked onto campus for the first time I could sense progress. Things were happening on this university, and I wanted to be a part of it. The process of accreditation was underway; manuscripts were first permitted my freshman year, and dorm 23 was brand new. I was ready to jump aboard and ride into the land of "Young Champions."

The doubts and discouragements haunted me later. I was appointed a room with one senior and two juniors. Use your imagination to fig­ure out the way things went in the room. I repeatedly pointed out to them that the hazing of freshmen was strictly prohibited according to page 33 of "The Liberty Way."

They didn't seem to care and con­tinued to use my head as a plunger. I survived, however, and have a 1.8 GPA on my first year transcripts. I've learned a lot from this place. I learned how to tie a tie, iron a shirt and mousse my hair. I learned how to match my clothes (well, at least, I've improved), and I learned to pull a sweater over a wrinkled shirt. I've learned every verse of "Harvest Time" and can recite 95 percent of Dr. Palwell's jokes.

Most importantly, I've learned the necessity of a daily walk with the Lord. The book of Second Timothy has been especially meaningful these past few weeks. Paul encourages Timothy to continue in the things he has learned (II Tim. 3:14). I think the personal application there is obvi­ous.

Admittedly, I don't plan to be in it at 11:30 every night with the lights out, and I probably won't attend a single 8:15 a.m. church service. However, I think I'll remember the Christian world view that has been instilled in me during my college days.

Somewhere amongst a Little Caesar's pizza with a few close friends bumbled around a smuggled black-and-white television watching David Letterman, things seemed to slowly come together. The informa­tion and concepts of four years of teaching and teaching somehow came together in those late night rap sessions.

Few arguments were ever settled in those twilight debates. Calvinist and Arminian students will probably argue until the Rapture. Debates over repentance and faith will continue to ring through dorm halls. Through it all, I've come to know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which has com­mitted unto Him against that day (II Tim. 1:2).

I feel I've studied and shown my self-approved and I've fought the good fight and have almost finished my courses (II Tim. 2:4 and 5). I can smell the sheepskin now.

Along with that lovely ache, however, comes a very real fear. Life in the mountain monastery of LU has been comfortable and easy. After four years, though, I've grown my way through the cocoon and now must spread my wings and learn to fly. I keep telling myself that God has provided me with the seed of faith and sound mind (II Tim. 1:7). I think both will come in handy.

These four years have taught me many of my perplexing ques­tions and I am forever indebted to this institution.
When my friends and I graduated from high school, we all took part-time jobs to pay for college.

They ended up in car washes and hamburger joints, putting in long hours for little pay.

Not me. My job takes just one weekend a month and two weeks a year. Yet, I'm earning $18,000 for college.

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"THE NATIONAL GUARD IS AN ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PROGRAM."
By Robin Brooks

These young men and women have worked long and hard to get where they are now. They’ve put in hours of practice and sacrifice. They are Liberty University’s senior athletes. Each athlete is a large part of what makes Flames athletics so important to LU. Every member of the Liberty senior squad has made an impact.

Whether they have been at LU for four-year career or transferred in along the way, they are 100 percent Flames. The Liberty Champion staff would like to recognize the members of the 1986-87 senior squad for the part they played in Flames athletics.

By Doug Waymire

Golfers capture second state championship title

By Doug Waymire

Weight lifting competition decides LU’s strongest men

By Robin Brooks

Cowboys sign Kagey following an impressive spring tryout

By Robin Brooks

ON TARGET—Recently signed Dallas Cowboy’s kicker Bill Kagey hits a field goal for the Flames last year against Lenoir-Rhyne.
SPORTSWATCH
with Greg Bagley

An overused sports colloquium says, "It ain’t over till the fat lady sings." As much as I hate cliches, I have to admit I think I just heard Nell Carter hit a high note.

This will be my last Sportswatch (and the crowd went wild). I’m really face down in bathroom stalls all across campus. If you want to celebrate my graduation, I suggest a stroll across Jordan to the Promised Land by way of graduation.

No matter how I try, I can’t help but sweat and Gatorade commercials. Crosby, but it comes straight from athletics. It’s not exactly Fanny cheat/ and "I" is for the Irish we introduce my musical tribute to LU and goes something like this: "L" is for the losses that made us want to cheat/ and "E" is for the Eagle that represents the Flame (figure that one someday plan to beat/ "B" is for the rudeness of our team has recovered from a 1-8 start/ "R" is for the rudeness of our second shot of Freddie M. "A" is for to have a rough start. However, the season and now it’s showing up in string of impressive wins over the tough/ and "E" is for the Eagle for giving me some of the greatest memories of my life (not to mention some serious laryngitis)." I’ll admit memories of my life (not to mention say is, "Thank you, Flames athletics for introducing me to the world of athletics and it spells the name of our team/ "S" is for supportive Faith Partners who just kept sending more/ Put them all together and it’s memories of fun/ "E" is for the Eagle, as I said before/ and "I" is for supportive I'd like to send up just one last cheer: Farewell, sports fans.

Despite inclement weather, a difficult schedule and some unfortunate decisions over both Ferrum and Bridge-water in addition to a 9-0 shutout over Longwood, Diemer said he expects his team to defeat Longwood and Ferrum again to finish out the season with a greatly improved 7-9 record.

The head coach also said the unpredictable spring weather has cost his team valuable practice time. "The weather created a lot of scheduling problems and cost us some important practice time," he explained. "We’ve had five matches postponed or cancelled due to rain or snow."

However, Diemer sees a bright future for his tennis team. He explained that next year the school will offer limited scholarships for tennis players.

Addition, he hopes that two more tennis courts will be built on the university grounds to accommodate all regular season matches.

The coach noted that competition among team members so far this season has been extremely intense as the top six seeded players for the Flames have shifted lineup positions.

Nettlers finish strong; win four of last five

By J.R. Swisher

Despite inclement weather, a difficult schedule and some unfortunate breaks, the Liberty University tennis team has recovered from a 1-8 start this season to win four of their last five matches.

The Flames record now stands at 5-9 with matches scheduled against Longwood College and Ferrum College on May 19.

"This was our first year at the Division 2 level," head coach Carl Diemer explained. "So we expected to have a rough start. However, the team has greatly improved during the season and now it’s showing up in the win column.

The Flames have put together a string of impressive wins over the last several weeks, including 7-2 decisions over both Ferrum and Bridge-water in addition to a 9-0 shutout over Longwood.

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