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Italian getaway: Studying abroad

By Matthew Coleman

Students are steadily moving to the study abroad program. For some students, the idea of being abroad is like the chance of a lifetime. For others, it is just another semester in college.

For me, the thought of someone missing their family and friends to study abroad is a complete contradiction. My family and friends are my life, and I would not be able to function without them.

Matthews, who grew up in New York, has a strong sense of family. However, she believes that the experience of being abroad is a valuable one.

Matthews is one of the students who participated in the study abroad program last year. She spent a semester in Rome, Italy, and she says that it was the best decision she ever made.

She enjoyed the culture, the food, and the people. She also made many new friends and learned a lot about themselves.

Matthews says that she would recommend the study abroad program to anyone who is interested in traveling. She believes that it is an experience that everyone should have at least once in their lifetime.
NEWS REPORTER
By Amanda Thomason

"Campus they must complete one final diligent task: white glove check."

President for Student Affairs Mark Hine. "Worn out," McKinney said. "Students are tired...""At the end of the semester everyone is just ready to move on. It's a..."

"There isn't anything special and uniting about..."

"If you try to motivate them by encouraging them that their..."

"White glove leaves us a little longer than..."

"The biggest change for me was going from..."

"Each RA checks the students' rooms to make sure that everything is in order and that they are ready for the next semester."

"An extended hall meeting the Tuesday before..."

"The end of the semester can be a stressful time for..."

"Students have kept up with..."

"As a student body, McKinney added. "A convocation provides a place to relax and laugh together, especially when it's clean..."

"At the beginning of the fall semester, I had..."

"It takes to clean a room depends on..."
FALL 2008 IN 7 SHOTS

1. Students in the theatre department performed Pippin on the Roof in September to sold-out audiences.

2. The 2008 football team captured the Big South title for the second consecutive year with a 5-0 conference record and an overall 10-2 season.

3. More than 1,000 students participated in the annual All Night of Prayer on Aug. 29-30.

4. For the first time in its history, Liberty capped residential enrollment, limiting the number of potential fireworks viewers at the annual block party to 11,500.

5. Students got their red on for tailgates, demonstrating their support for the Liberty football program.

6. "My Fair Lady" is performed in November on the Lloyd Auditorium stage for the first time in 30 years.

7. Then-Sen. Barack Obama visits Lynchburg on August 20 and less than three months later made history by becoming the first black to be elected President of the United States.

All photos by Alex Tower.
Students rock, rhyme and roll at Christmas Coffeehouse tryouts

By Anthony Barone
By Anthony Barone
By Anthony Barone

Every fall in Lynchburg, Va., the weather gets colder, it seems like it will snow but decides not to, students are anticipating finals and Liberty News Reporter is preparing to calm anxious hearts for one night with Christmas Coffeehouse.

SBI Web site said. "Why settle for photos from a textbook when you can see things firsthand?" the Johnson said, referring to his beat-boxing crew, The Peace Makers. "It is like a Sunrise," to her ex-boyfriend. Guitar solos, rappers, dance teams and a monologue completed the lineup of Coffeehouse hopefuls. "We have a good mix," said Judge Amanda Jacobsen.

The classes taken are modular, meaning the students meet five times a week and stay in class for eight hours each day. This provides the necessary credit hours required to make classes accredited.

Outside of the time spent in the classrooms, SBI makes Italy's wealth of cultural history available for students. "Vece and Rome. Why settle for photos from a textbook when you can see things firsthand?" the Johnson said. SBI is set apart from other schools and classrooms because there is a chance in the Biblical history the students work so feverishly to learn about. The locations and events being taught in the classroom are not on the other side of the planet, but only short bus ride away.

The application for acceptance into SBI is a little more complex than a normal college. Along with the standard application procedure, every applicant must obtain a letter of recommendation from a pastor to be admitted.

Contact Matthew Coleman at mcoleman@liberty.edu.

Field Trip: Heading there is a goal for students hoping to go abroad to discover different cultures while working toward their degree.

Sakinas

The SPA at Sakinas, your local retreat, offers services such as facials, manicures, pedicures, haircuts, body treatments, spa facials, manicures and more. Sakinas can be found at:

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www.sakinas.com

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ONwardS AND COLLECTORS SPECIAL

No cash value. No substitution. Not valid with any other offer. Limited time offer. Subs must be purchased in association with chips. www.jerseymikes.com

By Anthony Barone

ITALY

SBI was built with the intention of helping students grow spiritually while introducing them to Italian culture and to Towns.

fostering a heart for missions, according class accredited.

NEWS REPORTER

By Anthony Barone

"We're just doing it for fun," sophomore Joe Johnson said, referring to his beat-boxing crew, The Peace Makers. The Peace Makers have performed in the previous two Coffeehouses, and Johnson seemed confident they would return to the stage.

Tryouts allowed students to test their abilities and reach for the stars with their ambitions through song, dance and comedy by performing in front of a panel of judges. The goal? To perform in the Vines Center on Dec. 4.

Italians are selected through tryouts, which were held weekly and selected 18 acts from the mix. Although not everyone who tries out makes the cut, many people were pumped about showing off their skills.

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ONwardS AND COLLECTORS SPECIAL

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By Danilo Martinez
NEWS REPORTER

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, and even the Reber-Thomas Dining Hall is getting into the act. Two days after students return from Thanksgiving Break, they will receive the spirit of the holiday season set on a platter with a massive Christmas dinner.

Thousands of on-campus students eat at the dining hall every day at Liberty, but only a few times a year do the staff and facilities set aside a special night for food and atmosphere inside.

Tuesday Dec. 2 will be one of those nights. "I like that the Sodexo employees make sure that the students get to experience the Christmas atmosphere," said Lori Baker, who works in the Student Assistant offices on the second and third floors of DeMoss.

"It gets me excited to go home," Zinecker said. Students are expected to go home for the holidays to spend time with family and friends.

"Whenever they do holiday dinner, everyone gets excited," Van Wingerden pointed out that the culinary staff created the menu, and the marketing department drew up the decorations for the special night.

"We work, but we want to be able to see Santa Claus and his elves. Thousands of on-campus university students and other people in East Liberty will meet to debrief and talk about their past memories, students are asked to submit their own contributions for the fall issue. Contributions for the fall issue are due by Feb. 14. Additional materials are due by April 1.

LAMP, which is primarily a literary magazine, will be available beginning today at Student Assistant offices on the second and third floors of DeMoss. The fall issue will be published in the spring, and the winter issue will be available in the fall.

Breaking news — Students will serve overseas their time, talent and treasure during Christmastide. They will be serving in countries such asCambodia and East Asia.

LIVING TRANSPARENCY — Students will serve overseas their time, talent and treasure during Christmastide. They will be serving in countries such as Cambodia and East Asia.

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"I missed one.
Gary Householder, Liberty's Number 1 Fan, said of his attendance all Liberty's athletic events. He felt that his knowledge, including his, Householder has been at every game for an indeterminable amount of years, according to an Oct. 21 article by Drew Menard.

"My fellow lords and ladies would ride forth on their chocolate fox hunts, leaving a lonely king to build Lego castles by himself (none of which were edible).

"My heart sank.
Manda Austin, UFE Editor in a Sept. 22 article. Sullivan was quoted in "One horse at a time", an article from Hornet's newsletter. Austin takes up and down and doesn't believe in "my heart sank".

"You actually have to check your phone.
Senior Evan Smith explaining one of the downsides of the G1 in comparison to the Pino at Clark's Nov. 14 article.

"Students do care to be challenged in what they think and are willing to hear brilliant new theories.
Junior Brianer replies to Allison Johnson commenting on the Oct. 9 Chancellor by Michael Wood, editorial of "Forbes News." The event was sponsored by Liberty's English honor society, Sigma Delta Bita, and the article was written by Dominique McCoy.

"They alleviate the stress of being rushed.
Mac Timbes, In charge of the benefits of the additional buses in Anthony Bank's Sept. 9 article.

"I used to say he had no taste buds.
Dr. Jim Moon in reference to his lifelong friend and Liberty's music director. Dr. Judy Selvidge during a storytelling session last month and quoted in Emily Defries Oct. 14 article.

"They said 2,800 fans were there, but it felt like we had 5,000 fans.
Freshman basketball defender Wil Cagle re-calling the pre-game only occasion at the Oct. 17 cover over the Richmond Bergeades, Liberty recovered from a 4-1 deficit to win 5-4 according to the Oct. 21 article by William Armstrong.

"The danger is that the same attitude will slowly seep into other aspects of students' lives — the apathetic citizen is all too often an apathetic Christian as well.
Fall 2000 Editor in Chief Jennifer Schmidt in the Sept. 22 from. Yet another problem of apathy was solved as Liberty's voting center participated more than 4,000 students.

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OPINION

Quotes n. - to repeat (a passage, phrase, etc.) from a book, speech, or the like, as by way of authority, illustration, etc.

"Where are you, Christmas?"

By Danielle Robert

OPINION REPORTER

Family events, traditions, lights, music and all things Christmas come to mind when we hear the word. But in the case of Christmas, the word comes to my mind when I think of something different.

Citizen Contact Danielle Robert at danielle.robert@liberty.edu.
**A Hippie's Holiday Reflections**  

**By Drew Menard**

By Drew Menard

Though the true meaning of Christmas so often gets lost in the hustle and bustle of commercialism and selfishness, I cannot help but savour the last cliche. Christmas card cover, and selfishness, I cannot help but savor the holiday season. Christmas brings out the kid in all of us. And so do cartoons. Imagine back to a time when things were happy. Stress was minimal and there was no real schedule to keep. Ideally, the Christmas season is the same way. It's a time to visit with family and decorate the tree around a comforting fire. While deckiing the halls and trimming the tree, Christmas TV specials give families entertainment op­­portunities. Of all the cartoon flicks that air during the time, Christmas TV specials provide a nice break from the general jolliness in the air, and of course, the non-stop gift giving of the season.

Christmas as a送出 for family. Both of my parents come from rather large family who say "family." I have cousins galore, all of whom are dear to me. Of all those spending time together (for much of my life), Christmas is the time when we all "go back" every year. My mother, the queen of Christmas, has made sure that there is a present for everyone. It might be a scarf or a sweater, or even a pair of gloves. There is always a gift for each of my cousins. I have no idea what I'll be getting from them this year, but I'm excited for the rush of a go-lucky. Stress was minimal when things seemed so happy. And so do cartoons. Imagine back to a time when things were happy. Stress was minimal and there was no real schedule to keep. Ideally, the Christmas season is the same way. It's a time to visit with family and decorate the tree around a comforting fire. While deckiing the halls and trimming the tree, Christmas TV specials give families entertainment op­­portunities. Of all the cartoon flicks that air during the time, Christmas TV specials provide a nice break from the general jolliness in the air, and of course, the non-stop gift giving of the season.

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By Tim Mattingly
OPINION EDITOR

They all say it. Thesethoughtsthatcount, with piles of presents, stockings stuffed to bursting and things of the Christmas sort. Of course, if they say it, it must be true or they would not say it at all. But by the beadsof Santa, I swear, itisnot thethought thatcounts as much as the chocolate chip cookie, which accompanies it.Figuratively speaking.

Before I delve into the nitty-gritty of this Christmas cookie conundrum, consider the following recipe. "Homemade" cookies, of the chocolate-chip persuasion, require one-part egg, another part butter and a healthy dose of chocolate-chip cookie mix, according to Betty Crocker. All of these elements combined make the same year, which translates well into the holiday environment and all things Christmas.

The first bit of business is the egg or, to be precise, what the devil represents and by that I mean the deviled egg. With that said, an egg alone simply represents an unhatched idea, or the "thought" in "thought that counts." There are many different ways to prepare an egg, such as scrambled and sunny-side up. But scrambled thoughts never lead to much, and sunny-side up ideas are easily popped and generally messy.

Which brings us back to deviled eggs. Ideas are best formed when left to boil on the mental back burner before they are finally peeled and cracked open. Now, the white of the egg is the general shell of the idea — leave it as it is, while you remove the yoke, or the meat of the idea and work with it. Take that little yellow ball and mash it around with a few personal touches. Once it is spiced up a bit, insert it back into its white frame and voila — a well-thought-out Christmas idea starts to take form.

A reminder: while deviled eggs work well for our metaphorical mix, it is not recommended for literal application. Which brings us to the next ingredient — butter. Anyone who is of sound mind and/or southern roots loves butter. Therefore, in the figurative realm of cookie-making, butter symbolizes the care and heart required for any proper Christmas creation. For east-west purposes the recipe calls for "softened" butter. So, come the holidays, if a heart is not the consistency of soft but Country Creek spread, then it may need to be left out a while to mellow. For the harder of hearts, take this time out on life's counter to consider the "reason for the season" and let your buttery guard relax.

Once holiday heart and personal thoughts combine, in the Christmas mixing bowl, it is time for the final ingredient — the chocolate chip cookie mix, representing family and friends. After all, what is the point of Christmas cheer if there is no one to share it with. The wonderful thing about family and friends is that they bring over 300 chocolate chips to the holiday, according to Betty Crocker. And each little chunk of chocolate represents a sweet memory or some shared moments shared or created during the Christmas season.

Now combine all the ingredients on a nonstick cookie sheet of selflessness. Then place it in a toasty oven of holiday cheer, until it turns a shade of golden brown. Finally, take a bite and savor the spirit of the season this year, as it's aroma floods nostrils and its warmth resonates in contented Christmas bellies.

Contact Tim Mattingly at timmatt@liberty.edu.

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A mmm-mmm-good Christmas metaphor

"Anyone who is of sound mind and/or southern roots loves butter."
Behind the Scenes: Christmas tree technical production

Brent Reif
COPY EDITOR

Great productions are made, led and performed by great people. Mr. Reif, only one of the performers, is recognized for a job well done after many, many more must truly make a show successful.

Thomas Road Baptist Church's TRBC Liv- ing Christmas Tree production meets many standards of greatness only as a result of an enormous collaboration of behind-the-scenes people who produce a memorable show year after year.

A big part, or big parts, of the annual Christmas production are of course, the trees,iterior Christmas trees that tower inside the auditorium and serve as chief boats. Perhaps just as important as the left, these three hours over a mile of stringed lights that make them come alive on stage.

"The lights are an extension of the music," Technical Director of TRBC, Joe Daggett said. "You hear a piccolo run, you see a piccolo run; key people who adds his talents to the show."

"It was a big hit."

"It's something that we're all proud of," Daggett said. "My background is television and music, so I know nothing about."

"Fortunately, Cindy does most of the maintenance with the trees," Daggett said. "I do not have a lot of control over the trees, which is the area of on stage robotics. The machines do not stand up and walk around, but rather bines with an incredible light show to create the production."

Among the many behind-the-scenes people who produce a memorable show year after year, Mr. Reif has been involved with multiple productions at other churches, is tak- ing part in the annual production of his first Living Christmas Tree with TRBC.

ROBO REINDEER
Santa's sleigh is driven by "Cormie," one of TRBC's five "Yragge-bots" capable of carrying up to 1.000 pounds. The bots are maneuvered by Cindy Daggett.

"The production is a beautiful thing be- cause it really is a pool of so many creative tal- ents," Mars said. "It is a great collaboration effort coming out of Thomas Road. Everyone on the team has been involved with the creation of this show.

Daggett has been involved since the concep- tion of this year's show and has played a major role in its early planning and development. She expressed her gratitude and admiration for those who tried for years before.

"We had used many people audition for the show," March said. "It's such a tremendous statement of how much the programs have inspired people through the years."

March recognized the amount of the produc- tion and all of the various people who are involved. She spoke on behalf of those who join to make the Living Christmas Tree reality.

"It's something that we're all proud of," Daggett said. "The production is a great re- fection of the talents, humor and gifts of this church, and those about it.

"The show as a whole is the result of a myster- y of people like Cindy and March working together. With a mixture of actors, dancers, singers and musicians, a wall of sound com- bines with an incredible light show to create the production.

Not only does the effect cause audience members to go out the doors but also the performer-directors also believe it.

"From the hundreds of the first note, I im- mersed myself into the entire show," Choir Director Scott Bullman said. "I'm so captured by what is in front of me."

"The actual number of people involved with the production is not specified, as Mr. Reif has to do with everything technical, but the trees are really my main focus.

"It's all about lighting," Daggett said. "Now it's chutes around the country for us too.

In addition to his extremely vital work with lighting, Daggett lends his knowledge to the whole team. He teaches the other members behind the scenes about the trees, but even the ones born doing precisely that. Thomas Road Baptist Church's CTRBC

"Back in '91, I started doing a big home show, and wanted to see how to make bigger lights."

"A lot of the gadgetry and special effects fall to me, and even our production's lighting," March said. "It's a group effort.

In addition to the new venture that has been started many behind-the-scenes people come together, according to Bullman.

"Many of them are on stage robotics. The machines do not stand up and walk around, but rather bines with an incredible light show to create the production. Not the typical 'let's see how many lights we can cram onto our trash cans' light display. Not the typical 'let's see how many lights we can cram onto our trash cans' light display. Not the typical 'let's see how many lights we can cram onto our trash cans' light display."

"But Thomas Road, being our home church, gets all the benefits and cool new stuff and so on."

Daggett, Marsh and Bullman play major roles in the advancement of technology has also made the production easier and more accessible for the audience."

"I literally spent a year, non-stop designing and creating," Daggett said. "Now 36 churches put on or pulled off of the stage without the light display."

"I'm so excited to see the work of many behind-the-scenes people come together, according to Bullman."

"I'm so excited to see the work of many behind-the-scenes people come together, according to Bullman."

CULTURAL CHRISTMAS TALE: A potrayal how Christmas is celebrated around the world.

AROUND THE WORLD
Continued from A10

The music and dance in each scene is infused with flavors of the various cul- tures presented.

All the songs are original or existing Christmas carols, March said. "We have several music arrangers contribute, and also have our own director and had recording sessions."

All the music will be performed live.

"This includes a string and a horn orches- tra, as well as vocals and guitars."

The recorded tracks will only provide instru- ments that were not available for the live performance.

One particular scene tried, "You Klai- nin in Israel," was inspired by the Lien King Love, according to March.

The scene will include a large elephant made from foam and a wooden skeletal base. A green man fits in with each leg to make the creature walk. Two full sized zebras will also be included along with smaller props made from foam on a wood skeletal base.

COSTUMES
Continued from A10

In the past, costumes from previous years have been reused. However, this year there is an entirely new script, and all the costumes have been specifically made for the show.

The costumes present large challenges for the animal costumes wear the largest chal- lenge because they have to be made ahead of everyone else."
Christmas around the world: New script, music to enjoy

KERAH KAMMERER  |  ASSOCIATE EDITOR FOR CONTENT

Two hundred and fifty choir members packed into the balcony of this year's traditional Virginia Christmas Spectacular to see 1340 S. Thomas Road Baptist Church. The nearly 15 years, traditions will begin on Dec. 5. (The exact date is to be announced.)

"We planned in February," Executive Director Charles Bilby said. "Last year the production is a little bit different..."

In the past, productions included a range of story lines and variety shows, with this year's show the story is broad new, and the approach will differ to accommodate a Broadway style.

The theme is built around a durability guy named Frank. Frank is played by (a seasoned actor) who is joined on his journey, by (character). "The concept of peace is something that the planning team wanted to include with in the production," Marshall said that people spend their whole lives searching for peace and even those who know Christ do not always embrace the peace that he provides. Since everyone needs peace in their lives, it is an issue that needed to be addressed in the very late." The production is not a first for Marshall, who has directed several other Christmas tree productions. She and her family moved from Nashville, Tenn., this year, and she has spent much of the time preparing for the premiere. SEE AROUND THE WORLD ON A9

Costumes tell the story

Behind-the-scenes with costume design and make-up

EMILY DEROSSE |  REPORTER

The Living Christmas Tree at Thomas Road Baptist Church is in its eighth year, production involving a large amount of behind-the-scenes work, the costume department alone works," Jordan said.

Kathy Jordan has been the leader of the Living Christmas Tree since 2001. She began directing costume for the production the following year. Although, the Living Christmas Tree does not hit the stage until December, preparations begin months in advance. Preparations include gathering fabric and supplies so the costumes may be constructed. After the costumes are made, they are organized in the wardrobe department.

"Costume preparation begins with costume design as soon as the concept for the play has been developed," Jordan said. "If the beginning of June, we had in mind of our costume design conceptualized and began looking for materials and ideas."

According to Jordan, the costume department has about 25 volunteers who help with the various aspects of creating costumes. Some work with design, and others with construction or organization. "We have had an internship team of students who are a tremendous help, " said Jordan's assistant Sarah Glosson, who has been working with the Living Christmas Tree for three years.

The story focuses on a deacon who travels to various places in the world. Jordan said, "The costumes range from some spectacular animal costumes to beautiful and fun costumes.

"Creating characters and costumes with technology visualizing and able to work with performers movements can be very challenging," Jordan said. "I am performing "The Living Christmas Tree" and working with the costume department will be back, so the costumes and performers are a bit behind other events."

"It is a whirlwind of costumes flying," Jordan said. "During each performance we are very busy getting performers in and out of costumes, sometimes as in as little as two minutes."
Two sets of brothers give Liberty hockey a unique twist

By William J. Armstrong

The brothers that are on the roster this season are the third generation of siblings that have played hockey for Liberty. After the retirements of left wing Michael Cate and right wing James Cate last season, the team lost a significant part of its leadership. However, the brothers that are on the roster this season are the second generation of siblings to play for the team.

The Cate brothers, who are twins, have been playing hockey for Liberty since they were young boys. They have been a part of the team for over 10 years and have been a constant presence on the roster. They have been key players for the team and have been instrumental in its success.

The other set of brothers that are on the roster are the Eshelman brothers. They have been playing hockey for Liberty since they were in high school and have been a part of the team for over 10 years. They have been key players for the team and have been instrumental in its success.

The addition of the Cate brothers and the Eshelman brothers to the team has given the team a unique twist. It is rare to see a team with two sets of brothers on the roster. It has added an extra layer of depth to the team and has made it more challenging for the opposition.

The brothers have been a constant presence on the roster and have been key players for the team. They have been instrumental in the team's success and have been a constant source of inspiration for the other players on the team.

The team is looking forward to the season and is excited to see how the two sets of brothers will perform on the ice. They are confident that they will be able to contribute to the team's success and help it achieve its goals.

Frazee's passion flows deeper than just basketball

By Brittany Nelson

When Liberty's women's basketball team takes the court this season, it will be under new leadership. Megan Frazee will be entering her first year as the head coach of the team. She has been a part of the team for many years and has been a constant source of inspiration for the players.

Frazee has been a part of the team for over 10 years and has been a constant source of inspiration for the players. She has been a key player for the team and has been instrumental in its success.

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HOCKEY BROTHERS
Continued from B1

Like Eric, Zac was proud to be involved in his younger brother’s first career goal, which came at 4:53 of the third period in the win against Kansas State.

"It was insane seeing Mackenzie shoot and score, getting the puck, and celebrating it with him," Zac said.

On the other side, Mackenzie’s thoughts were the same. "It was fun to celebrate with Zac, because he was just as excited as I was." For Zac, being an older brother means being a leader, and Mackenzie feels Zac embodies that not only to him, but to the whole team.

"If things aren’t going the right way, I can always go to him. He’s there to be honest and help me get better," Mackenzie said. "Zac has always been my role model. He’s the best work ethic on the team, and it pushes me to work hard and keep me positive. I think he is a great captain; the best leadership that has not been assisted by Eric.

While Zac is looking forward to playing the rest of his hockey and graduating, Mackenzie wants to make his mark on the hockey team and does well in school.

Eric has assisted on two more of Josh’s goals, and do well in school.

rest of his hockey and graduating, Mackenzie

Mackenzie are helping pave the way for the Flames 2008 success.

THE REYNOLDS CONNECTION - Eric (left) and Josh are a dangerous tandem with 11 and nine points respectively.

Continued from B1

Like Eric, Zac was so appreciative that we would take the time to pray for her," Megan said. "She happened to go a Christian university and wanted to play basketball with her sisters."

As Megan is half way through her senior year, looking back she says she has learned a lot from her experience Liberty.

I have grown in my walk with the Lord first and foremost. It has taught me the importance of relying on him," Megan said. "My freshman year I tore my ACL, which at the time was a huge upset for me. After reflecting on my experience I realized and learned things that I would never have otherwise.

Megan is open to where ever the Lord decides to lead her after college. "I am open to God’s leading and guidance," Megan said. "I know he will open doors to lead me in the direction he would have me go."
In honor of a year filled with first time achievements and broken records, and going along the lines of the beloved Christmas carol "The 12 Days of Christmas," we’re counting down the top 12 sports moments of 2008.

1. Liberty announces plans to add women’s Lacrosse and Swimming. Liberty will see the birth of its 10th and 11th Division I sports programs as Jeff Barber announced in May that the school would be adding women’s, lacrosse and swimming to its lineup. This is big news for a school looking to build one of the most successful sports programs in the country.

2. MCDougall wins fourth straight Big South Track Athlete of the Year Awards. Featuring on Liberty “Trevor” but would be complete without track, suppose McDougall. His carry makes the last. McDougall enter the sport in June of this year, becoming the first ever to win the world four consecutive times, making him one of the most highly decorated athletes in Liberty history.

3. Men’s Soccer Wins Several Individual Honors. Despite their final exit by the Flames in the Big South tournament, Jordan Young and Cameron Clarizio were named first team All Big South players for their performances on the field, while Mike Grifft was chosen as an Academic All American by ESPN the Magazine.

4. Men’s hockey sends trip to Nationals. Led by Head Coach Kurt Hardy. The East hockey team started fans as they made an appearance at the NCAA National Championships, advancing to the semi-finals before facing the eventual winners.

5. Wrestling Sends Five to Nationals. By far the second year of the newly expanded wrestling program, Head Coach Jesse Casteen helped lead five of his wrestlers to the NCAA National Championships.

6. Liberty Baseball Teams Noted. The Flames achieved the 2008 season of defeating Notes Notes in an athletic competition when they conquered the Fighting Irish in a 2-2 game during their 2008 campaign. (February 9, 2009)

7. Lady Flames Tournament Bound... Again. On March 5, 2009, the Lady Flames basketball team secured their 15th consecutive tournament spot. (March 5, 2009)

8. Flames Football wins second straight Big South Championships. The Flames followed a similar success campaign at which time they won the Big South Conference with an even more impressive statistical season. (November 29, 2009)

9. Lady Flames to Celebrate 20th Anniversary. On March 1, 2009, the Flames basketball team secured their 15th consecutive tournament spot. (March 1, 2009)

10. Flames Football wins second straight Big South Championships. The Flames followed a similar success campaign at which time they won the Big South Conference with an even more impressive statistical season. (November 29, 2009)
By Adam Palmer
SPORTS REPORTER

Freshman kicker Ben Shipps found himself visiting Liberty not as a football recruit but as a student for a Woodlawn. Like many student-athletes, he was interested in Liberty from friends and alumni. When Shipps came to campus to check out the football program, he was surprised to find that the school offered a wide array of academic programs he was interested in. He met with the Liberty University football coaching staff and was impressed with the facilities and the coaches. After making the decision to attend Liberty, Shipps took the role of kicker and went into the season thinking that he might have a shot at a starting job.

The coach Smith speaks of as being the key to his success is Head Coach Ritchie McKay. Smith credits McKay for helping him improve tremendously opening up the gym to the public. McKay provided great support and guidance for Smith throughout his time at Liberty.

While playing for the Arizona AAU team, Smith's future in football was cemented. While playing in a tournament, a coach from Liberty contacted Smith about the possibility of playing for the university. Smith was impressed with the campus and the facilities and decided to visit. After meeting with the coaching staff and players, Smith was offered a scholarship and decided to attend Liberty.

The biggest difference Liberty has over other schools is that it is a Christian university. Smith says, "I have found that being surrounded by other Christians will be a great help in my life." He says that the school offers more religious and spiritual opportunities than any other coach, and these have been the biggest challenges he has faced.

From the moment Shipps put on the pads, he fell in love with the sport. He knew that playing football was something he was meant to do. Although he had a personal goal to earn a starting job, he was ready for the opportunity. "I was sorry for Paul but I had a personal goal to earn a starting job,' Smith said. "I didn't have that much practice because I wasn't getting any snaps, but God gave me the strength to come through.

Smith's future in football is in sight. Liberty University has found that it has a talented kicker in Shipps. "I will be watched spiritually, not so much physically," Smith said. "I want to keep playing football, and I will do that no matter what."
There's strong. Then there's Army strong. Do your part to spiritually strengthen our troops and their Families by joining the U.S. Army Chaplaincy. Serve at the frontline of the Soldiers' lives, developing close-knit relationships rarely found in any other ministry. Will you consider the call? Find out more at info.goarmy.com/chaplain/b569 or call 1-888-238-8287.
Amanda Thompson

When she got home from work, pastor Lindsey Sexton opened her check to see that it was empty. After all, Lindsey’s sons, Justin and Laura Sexton, opened her check every day. They had spent the entire day helping Lindsey with yard work and other chores. Lindsey had expected a check, but she didn’t expect none.

Leaving the house, Lindsey turned her attention to the two boys. "You two have done a great job," she said, "but now it’s time to get inside and get ready for dinner." The boys nodded in agreement, and Lindsey went inside to prepare the meal. She was grateful for their help, and she knew they were grateful for the chance to make a difference in their community.

Frankenmuth residents

"Seeing double? Twins at Liberty celebrate their unique bonds"

By Rachel Wolin

"It was never really an option to be twin students," said Amanda Sexton. "We chose to be twins, so it made sense to us to go to the same place, according to Rachel." Lindsey and Amanda’s twins, Matthew and Michael, were actually not just twins, but also identical twins. This made it even more interesting, as they not only looked alike, but also were very close. According to Rachel, "The twin really are not any complications going to separate schools. Our parents knew we were both here, and that it’s the right place to be for both of us." Matthew and Michael were different in some ways, but they also had a lot in common. They both loved sports, and they both wanted to study business in college.

The transition from one floor to another was relatively smooth, as the Sexton twins were used to being together. Going to Liberty was a natural progression, as they were already very close. According to Rachel, "We decided to go to Liberty as one twin, and it makes us feel better to share the Maroon and Green-er."
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The phrase "ring by spring" seems to be a staple in the Liberty University community. It is the recipient, the asker or a friendly face. The season of new life and budding creativity of how to "pop the question" ranges from simple to the rooftop of DeMoss.

Miller's reaction to Morrow's request for a date. During his planning, he "understood the night." Miller played a video he made chronicling the couple's two years together. The video contained a phone call to Morrow's father asking for the day he saved to marry her. Morrow followed Miller up the ladder, she noticed a candle lit pathway that led to the tent. Miller tried to rush her out of the apartment. Morrow said she could feel his heart beating so fast because of how nervous he was thinking that. He gave me a hard time about ordering dessert, but he gave in, and we got delicious carrot cake," Morrow said.

After the video, the dinner progressed smoothly so they went back to Morrow's building. The dinner was how that boy stopped loving me. The "lightening bolt" moment with which he knew she was the one he wanted to spend his life. As the evening progressed, Miller told Morrow for the first time he loved her, after he was finished reading the letter, he told Morrow she was the one he wanted to spend his life with. He even shut her laptop in an effort to move beyond with everything I needed to get the job done," Miller said.

I laughed out loud at myself for it. It didn't. I laughed because this was the reason he wanted the woman I was. I didn't understand because he knows how much I love my sweats, and if we were going to go hiking at night, I wanted to be warm, Morrow said.

please don't be talking to my friends about this, I'm not even finished with school," Morrow said. "It was crazy how much it was about me," Morrow said.

"I remember always showing off birthdays at the second floor of dorm 21 in the evening," Miller said. "I always felt like that was such a romantic scenario I looked around and saw that she had gray with polishes in hand waiting time with static, Janes, as well."
Coffeehouse unwrapped: A behind-the-scenes look at a holiday tradition

By Daniella Talbott

Christmas Coffeehouse is one staple event at Liberty University that can be counted on every year. With hurdle beginnings set in the early years at Dobbs Place, Coffeehouse was so popular that it was moved to the Schilling Center for a few years before finding its current home at the Liberty Lake Park, Route 122 South. The event will begin at 7 p.m. Admission and hot chocolate are free. However, there will be a $1 fee for photos. For more information call 434-582-2025.

Extreme Dating: Liberty Edition

By Jennifer Bowman

Dating is not always filled with roses and chocolates, and every day certainly isn’t like Valentine’s Day. However, there is a pursuit to dating — that is, too many people to find the one that complement and fit them the best. Dating is like a puzzle. Sometimes, the puzzle is complicated and sometimes it’s average. However, the “how we met” stories are often amazing.


“I was eating dinner at the Reber Thomas Dining Hall with some girls from my hall,” Adams said. “We noticed a guy sitting down towards the end of the table eating by himself.” The girls decided to come over to him for dinner and they ended up having a really good time.

Adams and Moore continued to build their friendship by hanging out with friends and playing board games and such with each other. “One time we went to Mountain Frost Creamery and Josh didn’t have money for ice cream,” Adams said. “At the time the employees were asking Disney trivia questions, and I get one right, so I got a second ice cream and gave it to him.”

After a month of hanging out and getting to know each other, Moore decided to make it official. “I asked him to be my valentine on Valentine’s Day and he came to conversation with a big purple folder,” Adams said. “I opened it up and there was a poem that he had written specifically for me.”

A week later, Moore popped the question — the “will you be my girlfriend” question, one. “One time we went to Mountain Frost Creamery and we shared a bowl of Peanut Butter and Jelly ice cream,” Adams said. “When Corey asked me to date him, we had a small crowd watching him.”

Vanessa Swanner and Corey McCoy have been dating for almost two years, and their story is an unique one. “Vanessa came to Liberty when she was 16 years-old, and she met Corey McCoy the first day she arrived,” Swanner said. “My mom went out to dinner at the dining hall with our brother Jacob, which just happened to be Corey’s hall.” Swanner said “I had met a lot of interesting guys that day and developed those four minutes into a conversation and that four minutes turned into two hours. For Corey, McCoy seemed like a step brother, but rather, the best friend and fun loving.”

Swanner, who was dating someone at the time, found that the Lord was calling her away from him. Over the next few weeks, she thought about the situation and decided she got to know each other. “We started dating very low key, and I told him all about the way to dorm 33, where I lived (this was before the buses) every Wednesday night,” Swanner said. “We would talk, and I realized Corey was a dependable friend, but not someone I thought of to date.”

Our interviewees said they learned a lot from Swanner about her father’s death, realizing what was good about a friend. McCoy said “Corey expressed to me that he liked me more than just a friend and I said ‘Oh, don’t worry about that... I’m nothing special, and you’re not special either.’”

One day Swanner got upset with McCoy because he didn’t do their before classes he was doing out with his boy friends. “That day I realized Corey was much more than just a friend to me, he was a constant companion and always there for me whenever,” Swanner said. That spring, McCoy asked Swanner to be his girlfriend and through their ups and downs.

“When Corey asked me to date him, we had a date, and it was just the two of us doing set, and he kissed and told me he loved me,” Swanner said.

Each story is unique, and couples the Liberty have the opportunity to communicate the love in their relationship, making the experience that much more rewarding.

Contact Jennifer Bowman at jbowman219@leviathan.edu.
Holiday help: Inexpensive gift ideas

By Jennifer Schott
ERICA STANFIELD

To help everyone sing in the season appropriately, the Champions Club has compiled a list of inexpen sive Christmas presents—those eight to one day before Christmas. If there are some gifts you have no time with. If there are some gifts you have no time to purchase, try them on your list. We have compiled a list of Christmas presents.

Makes... and Remakes

Some things never change, and some take new twists, again and again. Take, for example, Charles Dickens’s story, “A Christmas Carol” which was made into a movie in 1951 and a film in 1992. In 1951, it made a comeback, and another version was made in 1992. Bill Murray jumped in on the action with “Scrooged.” As Bill Murray's popular line of clothes to the movie's song and cheer the holiday, when he's finally able to get a hold of someone to buy a gift for the holidays.

“Charlie Brown, Christmas” has become known as one of Charles Schulz’s best loved stories. It has no other source, being a comic and the original’s invention, but it is enough to buy any one these items to think of it.

“I Love to Laugh

To laugh at some really funny fluff, like "Home Alone," you’ll quickly learn that the many funny people who love Christmas, and who love Bill Murray’s character, say "Scrooged." In fact, Murray was the only one to buy a gift for the holidays. This proves that laughter is a good medicine.

Old-fashioned Cars

“White Christmas” is filled with the songs and stories of the holidays. It’s a perfect way to start the holiday season.

From the Company

If you’re looking to purchase a beautiful gift for someone, you can find a wide selection at the stores. Some are listed below.

plane presents for the “Santa Clause” wagon. Nothing compares to the gift of a wagging tale stick, and an empty cookie jar. Our aims are to add a little bit of magic to your gift-giving, and to help you to make the gift-giving a little bit easier.

Contact Jennifer Schott
ERICA STANFIELD

Movies to make the season bright

Christmas Favorites

Christmas songs—"Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," "All I Want for Christmas Is You," "Santa Baby," and "White Christmas" are featured in this album. Choose the ones you think become a classic. Before you know it, the holiday music will be over.

Carol Burnett’s movies

Carol Burnett’s movies are the most memorable. "The Night Before Christmas," "The Nutcracker," and "A Christmas Carol" are all holiday classics. Even Carol Burnett’s movies are the most memorable.

You’ll never forget Carol Burnett’s movies, either. She is such a great actress and comedienne, and even her singing is a treat. There are two Carol Burnett movies that you can’t forget.

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