Mass. campus not for Liberty
Administration has declared the offer to expand to New England
Brittany Laird
blaird@liberty.edu

After paying a visit to the campus, Liberty officials have reached a decision regarding their interest in the Northfield, Mass. campus not for Liberty University's Equestrian Center, said official barn manager, Caroline Martin. "We have not had enough success with the property," Martin said. "We were hoping to bring the campus and beautiful location to Liberty along with, we understand, several other institutions," Godwin said. "It is absolutely stunning, campus and beautiful location," Godwin said.

We're very grateful and appreciation to the Green family for offering this opportunity to Liberty along with, we understand, several other institutions," Godwin said. "It is absolutely stunning, campus and beautiful location," Godwin said.

The tour included a visit to every building on the campus, according to Godwin. "We're very grateful and appreciation to the Green family for offering this opportunity to Liberty along with, we understand, several other institutions," Godwin said. "It is absolutely stunning, campus and beautiful location," Godwin said.

LARD is a news reporter.
Summer class preview
Melissa Gibby
Registration is now open for most Liberty University student groups, and some are taking advantage of the classes offered in the summer to try and knock out a few credits before the fall term.

The moving process took place the week before spring break and while faculty were out of town, students were given access to classes and to student union rooms, said the student union president.

Another asset of staying for summer classes is that the student union will remain open.

As their professor we can work along with them in a new environment about things that is really personal to me. It's really crucial," said Jarrett said. "It's really doing this, they were really excited for something that is really personal to me.

"You want other people to be excited about what the College of Arts and Sciences is all about."
March 6, 2012

Tax increases cause ruckus

percent increase to raise proposal is suggesting a one
accepted.
percent. The reason for the
the total from 11.5 to 12.5
for all meals bought in the
6.5 percent to 7.5 percent
rent proposed city budget is
mained flat.”
services go up considerably
the last three years with
has been struggling for
director of operations for
fund to help pay for the re-
ey is going into does not
that would have to be eliminated
in the community where
the most taxes? Why make
the other counties. That
as many eating there from
Lynchburg, but we have just
“We have to produce that
approved, Payne offered a balance of
is the same services. So the
the school board has re-
and $3.7 million for increased
$165.7 million for jail facilities to counter
"Personally, I think it's a waste
get, Payne offered a balance of
"I don't know if it's as sinijile
"Sure, we get a lot of peo-
Top 10 meals tax rates among major U.S. cities

TAX RATES — This graph shows the highest meals tax rates among the top 10 metropolitan places.
All of the rates listed are flat and local taxes combined. Lynchburg's 2013 budget proposed increase is to raise the tax to 12.5 percent.
Of the 10 cities on the Tax Foundation's list, all have 17 or more meals tax.
For more information, visit taxfoundation.org.

CASSIDY is the news editor.

"What people don't realize is that businesses don't pay taxes — they pass it along to the consumer," JOSH JONES

CIP combines building and infra-
structure repair with general improve-
ments and classroom upgrades. "The
be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 3, at
The Lynchburg native said
"I don't know if it's as sinijile
"I don't know if it's as sinijile

"We have a lot of conversations... about our tax revenues, and I think that most people will agree that if you're trying to build a com-
pany from scratch, you'd do anything
to give you that edge"
America needs better Easter mascot

By TROY DUNKLEY

OFFICIALS — Easter — commonly known as the holiest day of the Christian liturgical year — is the recognition of Jesus’ resurrection, the basis of our faith. Easter is celebrated through the use of a special symbol, Easter eggs, which hides the true Easter story throughout local and national traditions.

And the use of a candy-giving bunny to decorate from the greatest day in human history is here to stay. The Easter bunny, even though people have placed carrots in his path, doesn’t get us wrong. I absolutely loved the Easter bunny as a child. But even though I never get a chance to spot him. But the road of thinking to consider is a bunny was shown at all.

A more sensible approach would have been the use of a respectful candy hiding bird, or at least something that could actually produce eggs to begin with. Even a drab looking rabbit could be a believable Easter mascot, despite the fact that a sweet and good Easter bunny is likely to terrify small children as a beastly-eyed evil rabbit.

But with the neighborhood scavenger hunt tradition, the inclusion of a popularized character figure into a once-religious holiday has only served to detract from the true meaning of the event. A season when families should be enjoying together the customs and traditions of Easter, and eating chocolate bunnies and cake—maybe a small present, if you’re lucky enough to catch a local Easter bunny since hundreds of kids ignorantly celebrate the day of the resurrection of Jesus.

Egg hunts and traditional baskets, the Christian community should be actively working to use a symbol, the chocolate bunny that has slipped through our collective filter fins and into the realm of pop culture.

This past issue of the Champion I would like to say we are all entitled to our opinions. We are all entitled to our opinions. But, as editor in chief of the Liberty Champion, I will say that voting is not controversial and that everyone should just do it. I will agree with you there.

When we bring into play politics and opinion there are going to be some disagreements. Opinion writing is about getting people to understand different sides of an issue. But, as religious leaders, we want people to read what comes and develop their own arguments.

Voting, in my opinion, should not be the longevity of a person deciding to vote on a particular constitutional amendment or any other law. But, as religious leaders, we say that voting is not controversial and that everyone should just do it. I will agree with you there.

Congress neglects trafficking Act

By JASON BAILEY

With Freedom 4311, Run For Their Lives, and so just around the corner, every community of Los Angeles is thinking about the need to address the issue of human trafficking. Despite the need for awareness of these issues, the administration has taken a step back in terms of what America needs to do.

According to human trafficking is the illegal trade of human beings for the purpose of slavery, commercial sexual exploitation or forced labor. It is a worldwide form of slavery.

This alarming and disgusting practice is occurring both domestically and internationally. Shockingly, most Americans are completely unaware of the commercial practice’s existence.

The New York University Institute has reported that the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, a law against such practices passed in 2000 and renewed at the end of 2011. Even more alarming is the fact that Congress has yet to reauthorize the act and continue this effort.

According to USAID reports on a study recently released a report on national soil by providing a comprehensive strategy to combat human trafficking in the United States. This strategy is working. Most Americans are not aware of the problem.

But the victims of this barbaric form of slavery are coming together to remember the cost in a growing number of Christians have taken up the month of Lent, a period in which a person gives something up for 40 days after his baptism for Jesus to begin his ministry.

In this way, Lent is the spiritual precursor to Easter and is a time of fasting and repentance. It is a time for Christians to reflect on the cost of their freedom from sin has slowly but surely been paid for by the suffering of Jesus Christ.

According to an article by Dr. James L. Wilson in Thoughts About God said, “Back in the 18th Century, the deist believed that God was dead, and before the turn of the 20th Century, Shaw and Wells chimed in saying the 20th Century would mark the end of the world’s religious phase.”

To find out the definition of trafficking, strengthening the capabilities of national and international organizations to protect those at risk from human rights abuses, and outreach and economic opportunity programs for those at risk of being trafficked.

The hearts and intentions of so many men and women, volunteers, caseworkers, and doctors who work with the victims of human trafficking are deeply affected. Yet, it is unclear where this direction is going.

Ironically, USA Today reports, "These trafficking org reports that an estimated 10,000 to 12,000 children and women are trafficked to the United States each year."

According to the New York Times, President Obama’s response to these abuses is coming together to remember the cost of Lent, or don’t want to take into account the longevity of this act, a growing number of Christians have taken up the month of Lent, a period in which a person gives something up for 40 days after his baptism for Jesus to begin his ministry.

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Eighty years dedicated to God

Bible guide author and Liberty professor prepares to celebrate birthday

Brittany Laird
obtained March 21

Dr. Harold Willmington has spent half of his life at Liberty University. During his week Willmington has been with Liberty since the second year after its inception and his impact on the university has inspired many students over the years.

Willmington is a man of many occupations, including pastor, author, teacher, dean and visiting professor, according to his biographical information.

His work as an author began many years prior to the release of his first book—before he had considered writing a book.

“I decided when I finished the ministry that I really needed to be able to think my way through the Bible,” Willmington said.

To learn more about the Word of God, he gathered 60 sheets of paper and dedicated one to each book of the Bible. On each page he wrote everything that he thought that he as a pastor needed to know about each specific book. After finishing the Bible, he read 12 sheets of paper dedicated to the great doctrines, according to Willmington.

“Then I finished, I had 180 pages of world famous information,” Willmington said.

What became the basis for “Willmington’s Guide to the Bible” was given from those sheets. He has written 28 books beginning in 1974 with “The King of England,” continuing through the year. His most recent book is “What the Bible Says Through This Year. His most recent book is “What the Bible Says Through This Year. His most recent book is “What the Bible Says Through This Year.

This book discusses “finger tip facts” such as angels, Satan and the Holy Spirit, according to Willmington.

In February 1972, Dr. Jerry Falwell canceled a week of classes so that students could listen to Willmington teach about the Holy Spirit. This was the first time he visited to the campus, according to Willmington.

One in a series of “Basic Biblical beliefs” which have been held by both Liberty University and Thomas Road Baptist Church (TRBC) from their very beginning, the book discusses “finger tip facts” such as angels, Satan and the Holy Spirit, according to Willmington.

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WILLMINGTON – Harold Willmington left his post as dean of Liberty University, a position he has held since 1975, over 100,000 students have signed up to be a part of this institute. These students have come from all 50 states and 40 different countries over the years, according to Willmington.

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When his family arrived in Winston-Salem

“The years I was born as the husband of the dead, I’m certain,” Harold Willmington said.

The Willmingtons will have been married for 31 years in the beginning of April. Together they have three grandchildren, Nathan, Carson and Virgil, all of whom are involved with Liberty University, or Liberty Christian Academy in one way or another, according to Harold Willmington.

Willmington is always looking for ways to invest in the students of Liberty University. He loves interacting with students and learning more about each one as an individual.

His advice to students is that they seek the Lord not only reading but also breaching the structures in the Bible. In doing this, students have no reason to worry about their futures.

“We don’t know what the future holds, but we know who holds the tomorrow,” Harold Willmington said.

The impact that he has had on the Liberty community reaches not only students, but faculty as well. Eva Middleton, his administrative assistant, describes him as a humble, kind and generous man with a great sense of humor.

“IT’s been my privilege to work for him, and I know that everyone who worked with him has felt the same way,” Middleton said.

“He walks the talk. We learned so much from him,”

LAIRD is a news reporter.
ALD says farewell to graduating seniors

The Alpha Lambda Delta (ALD) Honor Society held its annual awards banquet honoring members for their achievements and contributions to the University community on Saturday, March 11. ALD is a national honor society that includes both undergraduate and graduate students.

Several distinguished individuals were honored during the banquet. The Lambda Yearbook Award, presented to the organization for its national publication, is offered to the纸质 copies of the magazine, the Lambda Key Award, given to a faculty advisor, the Lambda Farmhouse Award, given to an outstanding senior, and the Lambda Scholarship for Excellence, given to an outstanding student.

Natalie Mcdonald, a senior psychology major, delivered the keynote address. McDonald spoke about the importance of perseverance and hard work in achieving success. She shared her personal experiences and encouraged the audience to keep pushing themselves to reach their full potential.

The banquet was held in the University Center and was attended by students, faculty, and staff. The event was a great opportunity for everyone to come together and celebrate the achievements of the students.

CARROLLTON, Texas--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Delta (ALD) Honor Society is pleased to announce that its annual awards banquet honoring members for their achievements and contributions to the University community was held on Saturday, March 11. ALD is a national honor society that includes both undergraduate and graduate students.

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Williams continued his FTS work at Yokosuka Naval Base as one of only two NAFs at his command.

“More or less, FTS is active duty reserve,” Williams said. “I worked at the different commands where the reservists would come in and do their two days a week and two weeks a year, and I was in support of the reservists.”

Williams is the web editor.
Forensics team to compete again

Cherie Jamison
expansions@liberty.edu

Liberty University’s Forensic Speech Team was in title contention at the National Christian College Forensics Invitational in March and nearly won the national crown. Following this success, the team held a showcase of their work Wednesday, March 28, in the Department of Communication and Theatre’s DeMoss Hall. Here are the presentations made by the National Christian College Forensics Invitational, which hosted the Day of Life event.

Cecil Kramer but was inactive for years before being revived in 2009. As Liberty University Champion’s Advocacy Group (AFA) National Individual Events Tournament April 6-9 at Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas. According to Associate Director of Student Affairs Janelle Owings, “It is an honor to represent the American Forensics Association (AFA). National Individual Events Tournament April 6-9 at Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas. The following week they will participate in the American Forensics Association (AFA) competition at Ohio University, Athens, Ohio, from April 19 to 22.

Jamieon is a news reporter.
IN STRIDE — Men’s lacrosse clinched a playoff berth after Friday night’s win over Southern Virginia.

McQuillan’s Flames were able to flex their muscles against Southern Virginia

Paul Frewer
pfrwuer@liberty.edu

The Flames hit the back of the net less than two minutes into Friday night’s lacrosse matchup and never looked back as they went on to crush in-state opponent, Southern Virginia, 21-6. The Flames improved to 2-1 on the season and clinched a spot in the playoffs.

“All game we played well,“ junior captain Michael Zumpano said. “Obviously, the score dictates a well-played game. We will make a few mistakes but we’re young team, and I think we’ve made a lot of improvement and we’re only going to get better.”

The Flames imposed their will early, scoring five unanswered goals to start the game. The closest the game ever got was when the Flames scored two unanswered goals, one late in the first quarter and the other early in the second, to make it 7-5.

The Knights had momentum on their side.

See LAX, B4

Lady Flames take one of three from Winthrop

In Big South play, the Lady Flames drop the doubleheader against Winthrop, but win Game Three

Greg Leasure
jlawson@liberty.edu

Winthrop’s Natalie Becker, who had seven sacrifice bunts in the game, led off with a single and reached second base on an error. The Eagles batted around and scored four runs in the first inning.

The Flames had just one hit in the first and gave up four runs.

The Flames scored two runs in the second inning and held the Eagles to just one run in the third.

McKee won the first game of the day, giving the Flames their first win of the season.

“Other than that, we’ve been doing better than we have over spring break. We’ve slowly been improving even though the results don’t show it.”

Game Two

In the second game of the day, the Lady Flames lost 8-2 and their troubles seemed to stem from the plate. Lady Flames pitcher Alyssa DiMartino was	

See SOFTBALL, B3

Beach volleyball added to intramurals

Jay Sir
ysir@liberty.edu

In the intramurals office held an open-play session for the new beach volleyball league on Wednesday to commemorate the return of beach volleyball to Liberty University. Beach volleyball was originally a part of intramural sports but, due to poor conditions of the playing fields in its previous location at David’s Place, it didn’t blossom into a regular sport. Now in its new location next to the lacrosse fields on Campus East, students can enjoy beach volleyball anytime they want and even get a feeling of being near the ocean, as spectators in the lacrosse fields will occasionally bring some “ocean spray” over to the volleyball courts.

“We’re excited about the new volleyball courts,” intramural volleyball supervisor Bethany Sgandurra said. “There will be fill-in teams that will be participating in the league and it will be a lot of fun.”

The regular-season beach volleyball games will run for three weeks, with each game being played on Sunday nights at Campus East. After the season, there will be a week of playoff games to decide the season champion. The teams will consist of four members — two male and two female. Although registering for the teams has already passed, all students are invited to come and enjoy the volleyball courts.

“IT’s a great place to hang out,” league participant Joseph Collins said. “We can just relax here, play volleyball and get some sun while we do it. We’re excited to play in the season. We’re not very good at volleyball, but hopefully it will go well.”

The Liberty Intramural Sports program organizes and hosts sports for a variety of sports including basketball, soccer, flag football and now, beach volleyball.

SIR is a sports reporter.

and wish we could have won for her because she pitched so well.”

Lady Flames right fielder Jenny Law led the team with a double and a single, and Nicho-oles reached base twice against Winthrop’s Natalie Beck, who threw seven scoreless innings for the win.

The Flames had no trouble getting runners into scoring position, but they could not scratch out a run, raining a runner on second base in five out of seven innings. DiMartino thought at the plate might have caused some problems.

“I guess today we got caught watching third stikes,” DiMartino said. “Other than that, we’ve been doing better than we have been over spring break. We’ve slowly been improving even though the results don’t show it.”

WOUND UP — Alyssa DiMartino pitched two solid games for the Lady Flames.

The closest the game ever got was when the Flames scored two unanswered goals, one late in the first quarter and the other early in the second, to make it 7-5.

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Lady Flames keep hot with win, men stumble

Kyle Harvey

The Lady Flames tennis season has been a tale of two halves. Fans that followed through spring break would have hardly recognized the team of girls that took to the courts Friday in their 4-3 victory over the visiting Campbell Fighting Camels.

Prior to spring break the Lady Flames had managed a 9-0 record, but once the break the team has pulled off two near-perfect victories on the weekend, 2-3 in conference.

The Flames closed the door on doubles matches with an 8-5 win. Both of Liberty's doubles duo grabbed their fifth win of the season with the victory, according to libertyflames.com.

Winthrop detailed yet again in the No. 6 match, but Liberty was only able to add one point from them. The Eagles put two more team points on the board in the overall match, 5-3.

The deciding match was forced into a third set. Thomas took the first set from Yuta, 6-2, but the Eagles took the match with a 6-3 second set. Fans watched with heavy anticipation in Yuta as the lead, 1-0, rebounding quickly. Thomas took the next three games, only to lose the final two to Yuta. The Eagles claimed victory in the final seconds, 4-3.

The Flames are scheduled to face off against Longwood on Tuesday at 1:30 p.m.

GREGG is a sports reporter.

Road Recap

Liberty University's gymnastics team traveled to the University of North Carolina and captured multiple first-place finishes.

Both men's and women's teams finished first overall at the meet that featured Clemson University, the University of Maryland, James Madison University, Virginia Tech and UNC, among others.

Strong floor performances by senior captain David Tidger and senior Stephen Lucas were critical in securing the men's crown.

Senior captain Rachel Steel's first place finish in the women's bars and freshman Alyssa Furst's second place finish propelled Liberty's women's team to a first-place overall finish.

The squad's next event is not until the third weekend of April, when the men and women travel to Utah for the national competition.

Track and Field successful in road trip

The men's and women's track and field teams' road trip to the Texas Relays in Austin, Texas and the Raleigh Relays in Raleigh, N.C. was a successful campaign in both cities.

In Austin, redshirt senior vocalist Kelly Shepherd turned in a season-best 15:33.5 in the steeplechase, a mark that earned her a trip to the NCAA championships.

In Raleigh, Liberty's men's relay team turned in a season-high 3:58.4 in the 1600m relay. The Flames will host their final conference match against the University of North Carolina, Atlantic April 6.

HARVEY is a sports reporter.

Lady Flames keep improving as they won six of seven matches

Jessica Grigg

It was a close matchup as Winthrop defeated Liberty, 6-4, in tennis in four of six matches Saturday.

Following the loss, Liberty is 1-4 and 2-3 in the Big South.

Liberty, senior Mason Wadell won the only singles match for Liberty, 6-4, 6-3 against Winthrop sophomore Chase Alcorta. The Flames benefited from Winthrop defaults in their doubles matches as they won 3-5.

With the doubles win, the Flames defeated the Eagles, 8-1, in the No. 3 match. Liberty junior Sam Tao and senior Giancarlo Lemetti defeated Winthrop seniors Gray Guth and Nadia Ruppin with ease in the No. 1 match-up.

Freshman Delan Cowenford and sophomore Yara Hirokawa were defeated in match No.2 to Liberty sophomore Sha Thomas and junior Tristan Stay.

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Track and Field successful in road trip

The men's and women's track and field teams' road trip to the Texas Relays in Austin, Texas and the Raleigh Relays in Raleigh, N.C. was a successful campaign in both cities.

In Austin, redshirt senior vocalist Kelly Shepherd turned in a season-best 15:33.5 in the steeplechase, a mark that earned her a trip to the NCAA championships. She ran a season-best 15:33.5 in the steeplechase, a mark that earned her a trip to the NCAA championships.

In Raleigh, Liberty's men's relay team turned in a season-high 3:58.4 in the 1600m relay. The Flames will host their final conference match against the University of North Carolina, Atlantic April 6.
George Zimmerman is the 28-year-old neighborhood watch volunteer who is accused of shooting Trayvon Martin.

George Zimmerman is the 28-year-old neighborhood watch volunteer who is accused of shooting Trayvon Martin.

The story of Trayvon Martin is on America’s mind. What we believe has not been heard, seen and believed is that a 17-year-old African-American youth was walking to his father’s house from a convenience store when an unknown man approached him. A scuffle ensued, resulting in the death of Martin within a gated Sanford, Fla. community.

Zimmerman was a star football player but made the decision to hang up his football cleats in order to pursue a career in aviation. Number 36 is that a 17-year-old African-American youth was walking to his father’s house from a convenience store when an unknown man approached him. A scuffle ensued, resulting in the death of Martin within a gated Sanford community.

Even though the Heat are regarded as the most hated team in the NBA, I can’t help but applaud them for their role in bringing awareness of this situation involving the death of Trayvon Martin to the public.

The Heat paid tribute to Martin March 27 by releasing a photo of the team wearing hoodies with sweatpants — the same thing Martin was wearing on the night of his death.

What the Heat did was bold, expressing their support of the Martin family. It is rare too that we have not heard of any other professional team voicing an opinion on such a delicate topic.

In any standard, I believe the Heat are correct for standing up for what they believe. Miami and Sanford are 250 miles away from each other. Orlando is only 18 miles away. Surely the city of Orlando, along with the Magic organization, heard about this tragedy, but it was the Heat that took a stand.

Even though the Heat are regarded as the most hated team in the NBA, I can’t help but applaud them for their role in bringing awareness of this situation involving the death of Trayvon Martin to the public.

LEISURE, PEARSON and METERS are sports reporters.
work to do to be competitive. McQuillan echoed his sentiments.

Great record so far, and we still have a lot of games left. We have already clinched our spot in the playoffs. Whether it is as a No. 1 seed or a No. 2 seed is yet to be determined. The Flames have a lot of talent and we are starting to see us gel as a team. Better as a team than we were a week ago, the Flames easily knocked off the Flames. Whether it is as a No. 1 seed or a No. 2 seed is yet to be determined. The Flames are one of the more talented teams on the East Coast, and their biggest "enemy" could be the National Lacrosse League itself.

As soon as we figure out what we are better at than a team as talented as they are individually, the sky is the limit, but these games are getting closer and we are starting to see the National Lacrosse League rather than yourself have a lot of work to do, but this is a great start so far. Head coach Kyle McQuillan echoed those comments. "I think we still have a lot of work to do to be competitive in playoff and on the National level, but we're happy with the way it's going."

McQuillan said, "I'm happy with the way the guys played. "McQuillan was not shy about his team's performance for the track's Facebook page, it was an experience for ages. It's hard to beat a weekend that includes walking along the pavement, shaking hands with Jeff Gordon, and snapping a photo or two with the King of NASCAR himself, Richard Petty. Otherwise, the season doesn't have one of the more talented teams on the East Coast, and their biggest "enemy" could be themselves.

But before a majority of those reading this story drag their shoulders and discourage the sport as nothing more than a non-athletic Redskins making constant left turns while it's basically flat here and sometimes you feel like you're being watched, let me say this: I once held a similar view, and I was wrong. After attending a few races, I realized that NASCAR is a sport you must experience. It's not like football or basketball in the way it is not as obviously friendly to the average viewer, and NASCAR officials would likely admit that. In football, the action seems to increase after every play, but if you are watching it on television, the excitement is nonexistent. Move one inch too close to the left side and you're bumping into someone's front bumper, which could easily send you both into the wall. One too many to the right, and you're bouncing into the wall. Those gone paint job and more importantly, there are cars racing at over 200 mph. As for the drivers as people, it's hard to not respect them when you see them work. The focus it requires to drive how they do is unbelievable. Outside of the cars, drivers are just as impressive, regularly stepping to the stage and talking to millions of people wherever possible. You begin to realize that these drivers aren't the stunting Redskins drivers from "Days of Our Lives" or "The Ballad of Ricky Bobby." They're friendly and approachable, yet vastly complex and competitive people.

And with rare weekends come the little thrills. Truck Series races, which serve as a minor league of sorts for NASCAR, are held a day or two before the Sprint Cup races. For most of these drivers, a win could mean a few more weeks of sponsorships and a return to the track next year. That's not enough to pay for the track, another pleasure of being at a NASCAR event is not having breaks from the action with commercials or timeouts and they don't enjoy that. It's nonstop racing from start to finish.

This past race was the fourth one that I have had the privilege to work at, and I can say that this past race was just as good as the first. Many won't realize the significance of rare weekends until they give it a try. Liberty sports management programs have provided trips to students to experience all the involvements of the sport in past semesters. Other than Martinsville Speedway, recent classes have also been to Richmond International Raceway, one of the best tracks in the sport. For those who have had a bad印象 of NASCAR, I would simply say, "try it." You don't even need to go to a cup race. South Boston Speedway in South Boston, Va and Martinsville-Speedway in Martinsville, Va, are both just a few hours away that provide outside the action with commercials or timeouts and they don't enjoy that. It's nonstop racing from start to finish.

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Global buffet teases taste buds

Students enjoy exotic cuisine served with big smiles at “Taste of Nations”

Daniel Garcia
(Special to The Liberty)

The aroma of a multi-continental smorgasbord and the chatter of students filled the air of the Toloma Indoor Track Center on the evening of March 28, as the International Student Center hosted its annual “Taste of Nations” event.

“Our students look forward to sharing their culture and sharing some of the foods from their country,” International Student Center Office Manager Tanja Proctor said.

National flags, covered tables and international students clad in their respective traditional garb helped mask the faculty’s athletic appearance, transforming it into a cross-cultural dining center. Students paid the requested $2 donation and then sampled a wide variety of food, including dishes from Myanmar, Ethiopia and Ghana. Proctor said that approximately 30 nations were represented, in addition to local businesses LaCucina and Shanghai Express.

“I really like it because people get to try food from different countries without having to go around the world,” sophomore Sandra Smithumedhin said.

“It’s really cool because the international students get to share their culture and their food with people, and I think it’s really exciting for people to try to get my food,” she said.

Born in Thakhek, Smithumedhin said she did not get to visit her native country for 15 years before moving to America. Her table served several Thai dishes, including Pad Ga Prao, a basil chicken entree.

Among the nations represented was Yemen, a Middle Eastern country that borders both Saudi Arabia and Oman. Dressed in his native Yemeni attire, graduate student Ali Al-Hadda shared several traditional Yemeni dishes, including cooked goat. Although Al-Hadda prepared the food, he said that he started cooking Yemeni food until he was living in the U.S.

“My mom’s a really good chef, and when I came over here, I really missed the food my parents used to make,” he said.

“I used to call my mom and be like ‘How did you do this’ or ‘How did you do that?’ There’s no measurement,” Al-Hadda said, laughing as he spoke. “It was weird and the same.”

Among the Yemeni food offered was an apple and chicken stew called dajaj, Al-Hadda’s personal favorite. In addition, he served mahshi mahshi, a beef- and rice-stuffed vegetable platter, as well as falleh and hummus.

Taking part in the evening’s event was sophomore Amanda Isebro, an international student from the Philippines.

“I think it’s pretty cool with all the countries coming together, because not a lot of people know the different cultures that exist in our school, and there are a lot,” Isebro said. “So, it’s good that all the international kids are coming out, especially with their food, which really explains their culture.”

“It feels good to recognize people from home, especially when you’re in a different country, and to have food from back home, because you don’t get that a lot.”

Isebro’s comments complimented the International Student Center’s goal for hosting the event. Proctor said that the International Student Center hopes to bring in students and promote fellowship between both international and domestic students.

“We would love for everybody to just come in the center and hang out and know that this is a place to relax, comfortably, get to know each other and learn different things about each other’s cultures.”

GARCIA is a feature reporter.

Cultural talent show highlights global customs and traditions

Students from around the globe showcased their unique talents in an international talent show for all students on March 26.

The Cultural Talent Show transformed the Tilley Student Center atmosphere into an entertaining blend of dancing, poetry and music. Ten students from Jordan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Argentina, Tanzania and the Bahamas took the stage in hopes of seeing their talents bring in students and national students.

Alex Takadwa, Manya’s emcee, introduced the event.

“Hosting the show was amazing and a lot of fun. I got to meet some of the most talented international students,” Manya said.

“I got to work with great organizations who made the event a success, and they trained my job very easy,” junior Public Relations major Gabriela Dominguez said.

“This was an awesome experience. I love the fact that we can express more of our culture and also interact with our other international students,” Dominguez said.

Office of International Student Services Operations Assistant Danielle Venable said that this was a successful event.

“We had students from our talent teams, and students that did not know each other but were able to experience cultural talents while eating and hanging out,” Venable said.

The cultural talent show was inspired by students during a focus group at the International Student Center.

“There are nights when we have students from a certain demographic share what is good and had about our office, events and Liberty as a whole,” Venable said. Students wanted more than the Taste of Nations and Parade of Nations. “This led us to the full International Week to allow international students to show their country and culture to the American students at Liberty,” Venable said.

“I absolutely loved it tonight. There are so many international students here and tonight gave them a chance to shine and show a part of their lives with us,” junior psychology and religious studies major Diアナ Nelson said.

“Our job at the International Office is to take care of these students by helping them to overcome culture shock. Part of overcoming culture shock is to get involved,” Venable said. “This week they are able to work with other students and they are not shy to show off what is good and bad about their culture.”

“Diversity is so crucial to the experience,” Venable said. “I believe we are all talented in the manner God blessed us. We have been blessed so much to be amongst students who are not shy to show off what God has blessed them with.”

“God has blessed these events through students being able to feel more at home through talking about and sharing their experiences. This has been a great week of showing and learning,” Venable said.

WEST is a feature reporter.
Students showcase international teas

Students and faculty were given the opportunity to taste different teas and learn about the cultures from which they come.

"Coffee and Tea from Around the World," an event in collaboration with the International Student Center's International Week, allowed students to talk about their homes and discuss a beverage from their culture.

Chung Moos Le, a Chinese native, spoke openly about Jasmine Pearl Green Tea and Organic Blueberry Tea.

"In China, different teas are used for spiritual events," Le said.

He also went on to explain the significance of coffee and where it originated from.

"Solids are given tea when they are about to come to battle to calm their nerves," Le said.

Some teawas also used for their medicinal properties, such as a headache or a common cold.

"Teas are always used for many different aches and pains in China. They are home remedies," Le said.

Several other countries displayed their teas for guests to try. Rayanne Holey, a worker for the international student office, served Masala Chai Black Tea from India and Apple Pie Chai Rooibos Herb Origin Tea from South Africa.

"Although I don't know much about tea, I think this event is a great way for people to learn about other countries," Boly said.

Paula Tan, a volunteer at the event, stressed that most teas in other countries are made with natural products.

"Here we use tea bags that we buy from the store, but in places like Sri Lanka, they use natural tea leaves and flowers and put them directly into the tea," Tan said.

Several other countries displayed their teas such as Sri Lanka with Papaya tea and Safari Pure Tea from South Africa.

Over six different countries were represented at the tasting.

Kalrina Alleyne attended the event and came away with some new information.

"I learned how teas from different cultures vary and how important tea is, especially in China," Alleyne said.

This event was free of charge and open to all Liberty University students. It was sponsored by the Office of International Student Services, located on the second floor of DeMois Hall.

ALLEYNE is a feature reporter.
Seniors’ art reflects creation

The other seniors’ artwork ranged from acrylic paint to pastel knives to digital photography—a medium unintended prior to this year’s event. “I choose to do digital photos of people because I love painting in Photoshop, and I wanted a unique theme,” Lindsey Boly said. “This is a complicated technique but has beautiful end results. It’s basically taking a picture and turning it into a painting.”

Many of the seniors said they were inspired to major in art as a result of God’s creation being reflected in art, Clearwater said. “But then we also want you to represent our own growth in our artwork from freshmen to seniors, and make a difference in the way they view art,” Wesner was one of those students. “My passion for art happened in high school,” Wesner said. “I could see my teacher’s passion for art, and I think her passion is what made me realize I wanted to pursue a career in the field.”

Smith said that a career in studio art is worthy calling. “I think what makes this exhibit so unique is that all of the students are Christians,” Smith said. “I really believe that what you see in their paintings is a reflection of the student themselves.”

The Genesis Senior Art Expo was the first exhibit to premiere in Liberty’s new art gallery. The gallery moved from its previous location in SLAB Hall to room 4069 in DeMoss Hall along with the rest of the Visual Communication Arts classes. According to Smith, the new gallery is approximately 1,500 square feet, much more spacious than the old gallery which was only 110 square feet. The new gallery also has more lighting and an up to date security system.

“The gallery acts as an education venue for students in that it provides the opportunity to see artwork in person, and also serves as an example for the community to experience what Liberty has. We also use the cultural centers of the university, so the gallery regularly hosts exhibits by nationally known artists each fall,” Smith said.

GURLEY is a feature reporter.

3 ways to celebrate Easter

Shellem Jennings
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Spring blooms, an empty campus and nothing to do, right? Wrong. Central Virginia has plenty to offer over the Easter weekend. Here are three ways to celebrate:

1. Worship God in Nature’s Cathedral

Celebrate Easter at Natural Bridge. Worship the throne King surrounded by the glory of His creation. For more than 90 years, Nature’s Cathedral’s Easter Sunrise Service has been an annual Easter tradition for families across Virginia. Admission is free and gates open at 6:30 a.m. The service will begin at 7 a.m. For more information, visit naturallbridge.com.

2. Hunt for Eggs at a National Memorial

The Patrick Henry Memorial attracts children ages 0-2 years old to join the hunt for eggs and goodies scattered around the historical grounds. Bring a camera and watch as children from the community discover and remember what Easter is about. Members of local churches will tell the Easter story every 30 minutes. The event is free of charge. For more information, call 434-376-2104.

3. Enjoy Sunday Brunch with family

Visit one of the many businesses across Virginia for a family outing and delicious meal. Brunch options around Virginia include:

- Easter Buffet at Natural Bridge in Natural Bridge near Bedford. Call 434-358-3780 for details.
- Easter Brunch at Skolstadt Resort in Luray. Call 540-843-2100 for details.

JENNINGS is the feature editor.
Hundreds run to bring clean water overseas

5k organized by teen raises money to build wells

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At the guns went off, a sea of nearly 300 people were ready to run the Agua Pura 5k race on March 31, running with the purpose of bringing clean water to Guatemala.

As the watch counted each racer pass, 16-year-old Hunt-
er, Smith smiled. What started as an idea to raise money to build wells in impoverished Guatemalan villages finally culminated into a huge effort that would provide more than five wells for the Guate-
malan people.

"God’s really pulled everything together and the race held off. Just looking at the group of racers, I just thought, 'God is it ever good.' Smith said. "It’s amazing to see him bring out so many people for the cause of clean water.

The Agua Pura 5k race is the first race in Lynch-
burg to benefit Cause Life, an organization dedicated to providing developing countries with clean water.

Smith, a Lynchburg resi-
dent, organized the event and directed the event with passion and enthusiasm. Lynch-
burg’s outdoor track, all for the purpose of bringing hope to Guate-
mala.

Smith was burdened for the Guatemalan people of-
ther seeing their needs first and looking for an active way to help them.

"Being there and seeing the poverty taking place really impacted me and caused me to want to make a difference," Smith said. 

Our clean water well is going to be built in March and clean water each day for the next 10 years. We just started brainstorming on how to do this and the idea of planning a race came about.

After only three months of planning, the event frus-
tured a kick course and a 5k cross-country race, and the effort was a major effort to Smith and other race organizers.

"It’s really been amaz-
ing to see such a great turn out," Smith said.

Liberty student Nash teams up with Smith to fundraise for the cause.

"I think today went really well. Nash. It’s good to see the word get spread about Cause Life and basically providing clean water to Guate-
malas alive and providing the spiri-
tual and physical needs of people around the world, including Guatemala."

Cause Life president, Nor Ylost, also partici-
pated in the event. Nash was im-
portant in the work of Smith and his passion for the people of Guatemala.

"I think it went great. I’m so proud of Hunter. This care is obviously benefiting Cause Life, and he’s done all the work on his own and gone out there and got media coverage and sponsors and nearly 300 people, which is incredible for a first time race," Ylost said. "I think he’s a perfect example of what Cause Life’s all about. The message we try to get across is the difference that one person can make and how little it takes. Fifteen dollars can give somebody clean water. I think Hunter just took that and ran, and really built on that."

Smith and Hunter, to-
gether through fundraise-
ing outside of the race and the contribution of busi-
ness sponsors, raised more than $20,000. The total amount fundraised for building wells in Guatemala, the race between the race and individual fundraising, was $38,000. With that money, Cause Life will be able to build more than five wells.

"God’s really blown me away with this," Smith said. "We’re impacting 2,500 people through these wells.

Smith plans to continue to fundraise, making the Agua Pura race an an-
ual event, reaching other countries that lack clean water.

"I plan on hosting this race year after year," Smith said. "I want to see it grow and to really make a difference in the world."

JENNINGS is the feature editor.