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**IN THE NEWS**

**HABIT HUTT DEPOT: HIDDEN AMERICANS ARE RELEASED**

A federal judge will decide the fate of 10 American prisoners. "We've been blessed from the start, and we're excited about what the future holds," Jerry Falwell Jr. said. The university, which is the world's largest Christian university, said it wants Liberty to be "the biggest evangelical Christian college that's been blessed here with so much, and we're excited about what the future holds."

**Liberty’s founders decided they wanted Liberty University to be the largest Christian university outside of Europe because they believed their goal very truly in their ministry. Jerry and I agreed we wanted a big Christian college, because we wanted a big influence because we wanted to reach the world for Jesus Christ," Falwell Jr said.

**Potential polling place causes strife**

Location is everywhere — a concept that many Lynchburg City Council members seem to comprehend. On Tuesday, Feb. 9, the city council put on the vote the move of Ward III-4 polling place from Heritage Elementary School, which is where Liberty University students cast their ballots. The voted on the issue, and the issue was referred to the board of directors. The suggested location is three miles from campus. Residents within Ward III-4 precinct may have to travel to Longwood University of the Nansemond River to vote. However, the decision is not final as Councilmen do not want the polling station to be second class citizens.

**Snow proves costly to university**

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**Snow proves costly to university**

Car Howell

Enrollment reaches 50,000

Car Howell

Back up your resume with a letter of recommendation

B6

**B6**

**Opinion** A4

**Feature** B5

**Sports** B1

**TEBOW SUPER BOWL COMMERCIAL CRITICISM**

**SPECIAL REPORT**

**Focus on the Family**

**STUDENTS ON STRIKE: WRITER STOPS AT LIBERTY**

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Jerry and I agreed we wanted a big Christian college, because we wanted a big influence because we wanted to reach the world for Jesus Christ," Falwell Jr said. The biggest evangelical Christian colleges that Falwell and Towne could think of were Bob Jones University and Tennessee Temple University, which both had 5,000 students. So, Liberty's founders decided that they wanted 50,000 students according to Towne.

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CAH ITLED TO DETE
LIFELONG LIBERTY

by Emily DeFosse

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Editorial Board Chair

The Champion encourages community involvement and public service, and looks forward to future events that contribute to the betterment of our university, city, and world.

Letters to the Editor should be sent to:

Editorial Board Chair

Emily DeFosse

P.O. Box 2000

Liberty University

Christian VALUES

Gut instinct says that the CRFV provides a link between the Republican Party of Virginia and the conservative movement, including April's Freedom Federation Summit, which will be held on Liberty's campus. Staver still encourages students to attend.

CPAC...I would encourage our students to continue to attend CPAC, or drop off in DeMoss Hall 1035.


February 15, 2010

Contact Tiffany Edwards at edwards@liberty.edu

1971 UNIVERSITY BLVD. LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA 24458

http://www.championonline.org

http://www.crfv.org

The election was secret ballot, and each voting member contributed two votes to the tally of the Liberty University chapter of the CRFV. The margin of the election, however, had given Jon to Horyn. The election of Horyn was decided by the second in command. In his acceptance speech, Horyn said, "I really felt that it was necessary to the CPAC to move forward." Horyn said, "It was a close race, according to the chairmen of the Liberty University chapter of the College Republicans Club. He felt that CPAC won by just one vote. The election was secret ball and each member contributed their two votes to the tally of the Liberty University chapter of the CRFV. The margin of the election, however, had given Jon to Horyn. The election of Horyn was decided by the second in command. In his acceptance speech, Horyn said, "I really felt that it was necessary to the CPAC to move forward." Horyn said, "It was a close race, according to the chairmen of the Liberty University chapter of the College Republicans Club. He felt that CPAC won by just one vote. The election was secret ballot and each member contributed their two votes to the tally of the Liberty University chapter of the CRFV. The margin of the election, however, had given Jon to Horyn. The election of Horyn was decided by the second in command. In his acceptance speech, Horyn said, "I really felt that it was necessary to the CPAC to move forward." Horyn said, "It was a close race, according to the chairmen of the Liberty University chapter of the College Republicans Club. He felt that CPAC won by just one vote. The election was secret ballot and each member contributed their two votes to the tally of the Liberty University chapter of the CRFV. The margin of the election, however, had given Jon to Horyn. The election of Horyn was decided by the second in command. In his acceptance speech, Horyn said, "I really felt that it was necessary to the CPAC to move forward."
A Look at Polling

The proposal to move the Ward III-4 polling location close to Liberty University is a matter of concern to Lynchburg City Council and to the student body.

The undergraduate student population at LC is 2,589. Liberty’s student body is five times larger than that of LC and over 12,000. UVA has 13,762 undergraduate students, and VT has the most with 23,367. There are no numbers to show exactly how many students voted in each of the precincts below.

The distance to the polling location for Liberty students is almost twice as far than that of Virginia Tech students. Voter turnout was 18 percent higher at the Liberty precinct.

How students can be represented

For students to be represented locally, they must be heard. Jeff S. Helgeson, con- cerned about local issues, held a special meeting to discuss moving the polling place to accommodate students.

The proposal to move the Ward III-4 polling place to accommodate students was initially met with resistance from the community. Mayor Joan Foster, who is also a member of the City Council, expressed her concerns to Lynchburg City Council meetings.

The colleges also have polling places within three miles of their campuses. These polling places include both the city council and local citizens that students both have a right and desire to be represented locally, they must be heard. Mayor Joan Foster, was also asked to consider the local issues and the opinion page is a forum to be heard.

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Forensics team off to quick start

Abby Armbruster

Led by a pair of self-proclaimed dork machines, the members of Liberty University's Forensics team want to combine their personalities but also have trophies to back it up.

Through the team is not to far out of existence since the 1980s, the team ran 43 trophies since last semester with four of the trophies being team sweeps, meaning Liberty team did the best overall in the tournament.

The team, which has nine members overall, is new at Liberty.

"I'm really excited," said Coach and Director of Forensics and individual events Andrew Jonsen.

Some members of the forensics team travel to Wilkes-Barre, Pa., over the Jan. 29 weekend for the Wilkes-Barre Invitational and placed third in limited team sweeps.

"It just kind of popped in our heads, " said Jonsen. "We want to be a little bigger,.

"Oh, let's have 5,000, " Towns said. "I said, "We do not need $1 million, '" said Jonsen. "But history shows that was our first $1 million year.

"We want to be a little bigger, " said Jonsen. "We do not need $1 million, "

"It's really nice to hear the decisions coming after a young voice, " Jonsen said.

"The hardest part is just coming up with ideas and planning our tournaments, " said Dowd.

"I really enjoyed it, " Dowd said.

"The team has nine members overall, with four of the trophies being team sweeps, meaning Liberty team did the best overall in the tournament.

GROWTH continued

"When he said 50,000, I thought, 'That is laughable,' " Towns said. "When he said 50,000, I thought, 'That is laughable,' "

"I thought that was our first million," said Jonsen.

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SNOW HITS LYNCHBURG — The recent snow storms have put Lynchburg well over the average snowfall, but have not quite reached record-breaking heights yet.

"There are a few locations," Starnes said. "Our biggest challenge is when we have a parking lot full of cars, it is hard for us to get and actu-
ally do an efficient job." Starnes also said that be-
cause so much manpower has been moved to help clear the roads, work tickets and minor repairs might take longer in-
sponse times than normal.

Snow has caused few other issues around the univer-
sity. Space said that a few
type pipes have burst, snow plows will need repair and issues at the new residence, the Lynchburg Inn, have come to light. “We just realized how ener-
gy inefficient (the Lynchburg Inn) is during this weather," Space said.

Starnes said that over-
time for workers and fuel for equipment and chemicals, in-
cluding salt for the roads, will cost Liberty approximately $150,000.

"My feet just went out from under me," Wake-
field said. "I was so stressed at the beginning of the semester and this will give me more time to focus on my playing." The next day, however, Wakefield found out that she had broken her arm just below the elbow. Wakefield said she was lucky to walk away from the accident. "I was really concen-
trated on my playing." Wakefield said, "I was thinking, "I cannot have broken my arm, I am a violinist." The snow has cancelled and delayed schools around the region. Virginia Tech Uni-
versity had two delays, one early release and one full
cancelled, while Lynchburg College had no delays.

Walters said that every morning when workers could plow in front of dorms and the parking lots, "There are a few locations," Starnes said. "Our biggest challenge is when we have a parking lot full of cars, it is hard for us to get and actu-
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ters are missionaries," Wakefield said. "So, I really wanted to finish in four years."

One of Walters’s teachers directed her to the
Student Advocate Office. Walters filled out a let-
ter of inquiry and her scholarship was extended to cover her extra semester, "I think this was God’s way of saying to my parents, ‘I want to plow in front of dorms where physically challenged students live, then the main
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report to the VA. "If you have never seen service members or have not submitted your application, you can also submit your application online. It will also help to graduate a separate later than the

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men have long wondered at the minds of women. At every stage of a relationship, many couples find themselves on different pages, much of the time. Though guys tend to wait for surface explorations, they fail to realize that deep on the inside, a girl needs a different level of intimacy. One major difference between men and females is the former's tendency to reach a high level of comprehension much faster than the latter. Men are typically more advanced in the realm of emotional responses, whereas women are more sensitive to the deeper aspects of human interaction. A man's understanding of a woman's emotional needs is crucial to maintaining a healthy relationship. Women, on the other hand, tend to be more intuitive and empathetic, which allows them to anticipate their partner's needs, even when they are not directly expressed. Men have a tendency to be more practical and logical, which can sometimes lead to misunderstandings or miscommunications with women. To overcome these challenges, men need to focus on developing their emotional intelligence and capacity for empathy, while women should work on improving their ability to communicate clearly and effectively. With a solid foundation of understanding and support, any couple can navigate the complexities of a relationship and build a strong, lasting bond.
students, pleading to help citizens there. As the Great Firewall blocks access to tens of thousands of websites, the issue could not be more pressing. Supporting the development of new tools that enable citizens to exercise their right of free expression by circumventing politically motivated censorship, will make sure that those who fight the battle need not have fought alone. According to TruthOut.org, "As Chinese netizens watched her speech — web cast live and linked on several Chinese blogs — many of them crowded onto chat rooms to offer diverse opinions. There will always be those who champion against censorship and those who defend the regime," Kuo said, according to TruthOut.org.

China has become a modernized nation in recent decades, but its communist nation remains light-years behind the United States in terms of Internet access and freedom of speech. The Chinese government has the right to restrict access to and monitor the use of the Internet. According to Drummond, Google is also considering ceasing operations in China. "Countries or individuals that engage in cyber attacks should face consequences and international condemnation." Secretary of State Hillary Clinton supports Google's position and comments: "As Chinese citizens enjoy the benefits of new tools that enable them to express their views, it is not at all surprising that the Internet itself be censored. However, it is abundantly clear that the Internet is a powerful tool that can be used to promote democracy and human rights."
John Stokes speaks to students

By Melinda Zosh

Senior advertising major Christopher Wong was one of 49 students honored at the American Advertising Federation’s (AAF) 2010 Most Outstanding Student Program at the New York State Governor’s Mansion. The program is the “premier advertising industry award program honoring outstanding minority college graduates in advertising, marketing, and media communications,” according to a news release.

Advertising professor Angela Wodgedon nominated Wong for the program, in part because she felt he had a strong chance to win, she said.

“I was already impressed with him, but he also met all the criteria Angela was looking for,” said Wong. “I knew Chris was the right (nomination), because he gave God the glory for everything.”

AFA News, the student director of AFA, noted that Wong demonstrated exceptional leadership skills and was a strong candidate to have multiple skill sets.

The second event of the week is the International Student Orientation at the beginning of each semester. Approximately 100 volunteers are needed for each semester, according to International Student Officer Kayla Denton. As a part of the process, new students will be introduced to Liberty University and will be given an overview of their role in the Kingdom of God.

The International Student Office “provides guidance to students who need to learn about other cultures,” said Noy. “Many students will be returning as international students to help with the process, they will assist in the process of cultural differences.”

One way any student can get involved as an ambassador is to participate in the recruitment of new international students during their freshman year. Approximately 100 volunteers are needed for each semester, according to International Student Officer Kayla Denton.

Serving as an ambassador earns Christ Community students service hours and unpaid housing for the no charge. The duties of these volunteers include helping with organization tasks, planning events and setting up, and helping new students arrive and assist new international students to adapt to their new environment.

One reason that Wong received this honor was his testimony, Wong said. “I was so humbled that God would allow him to be in this way and that God had bigger plans for him.”

Contact Melinda Zosh at mzhosh@liberty.edu
An inside look at running sensation
Sam Chelanga
B2

SPORTS BRIEFS
EVERYTHING'S BIGGER IN TEXAS
A record-setting 108,713 fans packed the new Dallas Cowboys stadium on Sunday night to view the 2010 NFL-A ACC game.

The game, featuring the best players from the Eastern and Western Conferences, was won by the East by a final score of 141-139. Miami Head guard Dwayne Wade racked up MVP honors with his 33 points, 11 assists, six rebounds and five steals. Denver Nuggets swingman Carmelo Anthony led the way for the West in the losing effort, netting a double-double with 27 points and 10 rebounds.

OLYMPIC TRAGEDY
Twenty-one-year-old Republic of Georgia luger Nodar Kumaritashvili died during a practice run before the start of the Olympic games in Vancouver on Friday.

Kumaritashvili was traveling nearly 90 mph when he lost control around a corner on Friday.

ICE HOCKEY ROCKS RUTGERS
Ryan Walter
SPORTS REPORTER
The Flames looked sharp, notching two goals in the first period, scoring three unallowed goals in the second period, and netted four goals in the third period, giving the Lady Flames a 5-2 victory Saturday night at the Vines Center Late game winner, batting home a rebound off of goalie Matt Pederson (assistant coach Mike Binnie said. "Thankfully
"We lacked intensity. We wanted to come out fighting and we just didn't do it our jobs," as

See HOCKEY on A4

Liberty Track & Field Competes at Home, and in Arkansas
Daniel Martinez
SPORTS REPORTER
It is not often that you will see a team of male pole-vaulters run a 4:40 re-

best time in the 3,000 meter run.

The Flames hockey squad continued its late season dominance with a win over the Rutgers Ice Knights Saturday night. Liberty came out flying, after being tied 2-2 in the first, with six consecutive goals for an 8-2 victory It was both a decisive and important game as the national tournament beams closer.

"We improved period by period with overall strong play," Assistant Captain Joe Smith said. "We knew that the results of the game could seriously affect our national ranking and we wanted to go out early for a chance at moving up in the standings."

The Flames looked sharp, notching two goals early in the first period to go ahead. Captain Zach Brown scored the first with an impressive individual effort.

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"We lacked intensity. We wanted to come out fighting and we just didn't do it our jobs," assistant coach Mike Pence said. "Thankfully

See HOCKEY on A4

Lady Flames fall to Gardner-Webb as Bulldogs capture first place
Chris McNair
SPORTS REPORTER

In a battle for Big South supremacy, the Lady Flames basketball team took on Big South co-leader Gardner-Webb last Monday night at the Vines Court/Lane game heroics from Gardner-Webb former Dominique Hulson gave the Bulldogs a thrilling come-from-behind victory 95-91 snapping Liberty's 10 game winning streak in the process.

Things got off to a de-

See TRACKS on A4

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Flames pick up split, ready for Radford

Andriana CATHY SPORTS WRITER

If you are looking for a good definition of grit, it would be worth your while to come to the Vines Center on Tuesday night and watch the Liberty Flames men's basketball team play host to the Radford Highlanders. In five games this season, the Flames have found themselves in a position to keep you coming back for more. But tonight, the Flames are looking to show you how they do it.

The Flames are coming off a close win on Saturday at VCU, 75-70. They used improved defense and a strong second half to come away with the win. The Highlanders are 6-16 on the season, but they have been competitive in most of their losses.

The Flames are 9-7 on the season and 4-1 in conference play. They have won their last three games and are looking to keep that streak going.

Radford has lost six straight games and is 1-10 in conference play. They have lost their last five games by an average of 19.6 points.

The Flames are led by juniors Javion McClean and Daniel Martinez. McClean has scored at least 20 points in three of the last four games and is averaging 15.5 points per game. Martinez is averaging 12.8 points per game.

Radford is led by juniors Ben Brown and Charles Thompson. Brown is averaging 16.6 points per game and Thompson is averaging 13.2 points per game.

The Flames are looking to continue their winning streak and improve their conference record to 5-1.

Flames coach Kevin Harmon said, "We have been playing well as a team and our defense has been key to our success. Our players are playing with a lot of confidence and we are playing with a lot of urgency. We are playing with a lot of purpose and we are playing with a lot of intensity.

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Tackling Tebow criticism

Nathan Brown
SPORTS REPORTER

Warm, Inspiring Touch: A mother nagging for a life that she was denied with Tim. But domestic violence? No.

In a recent Super Bowl ad, Pam Tebow shared the story of her son, the most famous Tebow — Tim, the "miracle baby" — showing baby pictures as she recounted how almost not making it into this world imperiled her difficult pregnancy with Tim Tebow.

The commercial then carried toes to the Super Bowl placement and Tim Tebow's chosen craft, as Tim tackled his own son. Viewers were expected to laugh and in a Motherly "I'm not putting up with rough-housing on national TV," Pam Tebow scolded her son and pouted with him for the closing shot.

The National Organization for Women (NOW), a pro-abortion faction, has condemned the ad, not for its opposing "pro-life" stance, or its directive to the special interest group's attempt to taint a Los Angeles Times.

Karen (name changed), a mother of seven, has a similar story to Pam Tebow's. Her son, London, was "bom" in the hospital, her son, London, was PD, and even in a motherly "I'm not putting up with rough-housing on national TV," Pam Tebow scolded her son and pouted with him for the closing shot.

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Tom Ford

HOCKEY continued

In the second I thought we really picked it up," Bartman said. "There were still a few things we had to work on but I thought we worked hard." The third period was all Brent Boschman. He started the period with a wrist shot that beat the goalie on his top right corner. Later he tipped a pass play from the point to get his third goal of the game to complete his hat trick.

It was on the power play and I was just in front of the net," Boschman said. "I was trying to get good body position and I got it a piece of it." That was not for Boschman as he assisted on junior Eric Reynolds goal. Reynolds got the puck and wired a shot right between the Ranger's logo's leg to Liberty's eighth and final goal of the game.

"I thought the third period was our best period," sophomore Max Bartman said. "We had more chances and we played better overall." The win is the last one Liberty before the final ranking of the season. The currently 18th-ranked Flames are hoping to improve their position for the NCAA Tournament. With only four games left in the regular season, every game will be important for gaining momentum leading up to Nationals.

With many of the top ranked teams losing this week, Liberty hopes for a generous ranking update. Liberty will look for revenge at 12:30 PM on Saturday at the Oakland University Golden Grizzlies home weekend. Liberty enters the game with two losses at Oakland earlier this season. The puck drops at 7:00 PM on Friday.

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Love for what you do and determination to succeed are key factors to success. Junior John East has a love for music that is evident to those around him.

Born and raised in Lynchburg, Va., East attended Jefferson Forest High School before coming to Liberty in fall 2007. According to East, Liberty was not the school he originally planned to attend, "Being from here, there is a lot of skepticism with Liberty I went to church with a bunch of Liberty kids ... Some of them were a little over the top," East said.

East, a vocal performance major, was introduced to music at a young age. Despite the lack of a choral program throughout middle school, East began participating in the local community choir, Cantate, in fifth grade and continued for eight years.

During his senior year of high school an member of Cantate, a Liberty student, invited him to see an opera she was in at the Liberty theatre. "I really enjoyed it," East said. After speaking with Music Professor and the Director of the Opera Dr. Wayne Kompielian in April of his senior year of high school, East was excited about the program, "So I just came here and it's been perfect," East said.

East, a bass, has been in the voice program since his freshman year He has been in several productions such as Die Fledermaus by Johann Strauss II, The Magic Flute and the Marriage of Figaro by Mozart. According to Kompielian, who has been East's voice teacher since his career began at Liberty, East has one of the finest voices he has heard at the undergraduate level. "John is a bass. This is somewhat unique. Great basses are much more difficult to find than a great soprano," Kompielian said.

East enjoys composers such as Giuseppe Verdi, Johannes Brahms and Eric Whitacre. "I love Verdi's Requiem ... The style and the romantic era, it's just so passionate, so much fun to sing," East said. East placed first at the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) competition both years and placed first in the state freshman and sophomore years, as well as third in the region his freshman year and second in the region his sophomore year. "I have taught many extremely talented students and John is one of the best," Kompielian said.

East's fiance, freshman nursing major Sarah Harker, admires East's passion and love for his music, "Something that I have respected about John is that he has honesty in his love of music," Harker said. East and Harker have been dating for four years, and will be married in May. "John is definitely unique. Personally, I think what sets him apart is the fact that he was meant for another era. He is certainly a gentleman, but his interests make him stand out. Not many guys would enjoy the opera, but tea and pocket watches. He is very turn of the century," Harker said. After graduation, East wants to attend graduate school and later go on to sing professionally. "I would like to professionally sing opera and teaching wouldn't be bad," East said. East's love and dedication to his music are evident to the people around him. According to Kompielian, East's appreciation for his talent will take him far. "Even though he has this great talent he is always striving to improve and to continue to grow as a performer," Kompielian said. "He has a bright future as a performer."
Letters of recommendation are important to potential employers and for graduate school admissions departments because they will back up a resume. Many graduate school applicants require recommendations as part of the application process.

"Letters of recommendation" provide extra evidence beyond an interview that you have done what you say you have done and to what degree," Barnhouse said. "As an evaluation of your performance, skills or abilities, they can help an employer get a better understanding of who you are and what you can do."

Students are advised to work with the "three P's" when considering who can provide a letter of recommendation, according to Sumner. A student should take the "purpose of the letter" into consideration when writing the letter.

"I think that occasionally I get student who wants me to write a letter of recommendation, according to Barnhouse. In order to not come across as unprofessional, a student should take the writer's time into consideration. Allow the person plenty of time to write the letter."

"It is important to remember that you may need further letters of recommendation when applying for graduate school admission or for internships," according to Sumner. A student should take the "purpose of the letter" into consideration when writing the letter. Always send a thank you note and let the professor know the outcome of the recommendation. There are rules of etiquette that you should follow when asking for a letter of recommendation, according to Sumner. A student should take the "purpose of the letter" into consideration when writing the letter.

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Bridging the gap: a choir with a distinctly multicultural flavor is uniting students and crossing borders

Camille Smith  FEATURE REPORTER

International students at Liberty University have thousands of miles separating them from their families and friends. A different language can be challenging, and a new culture can be a difficult adjustment. However, there is at least one thing that can remain familiar — music.

The Timothy International Ministry (TIM) student choir was created in fall 2009 by Linda Barkley, an international student advisor and Rev. Harold L. Roberts of TIM, or as he is referred to by the international students, Pastor Rocky.

"Last summer, I believe the Lord inspired the idea of forming an international choir — a choir that could reach out to churches in the Lynchburg area," Barkley said.

She believes the choir, while giving congregates a firsthand perspective of students from other parts of the world, challenges listeners with testimonies through song.

Barkley, having traveled with the Lynchburg Baptist College Chorale when she was a student in 1972, believes the Lord has given her the gift of music. That, paired with her position at Liberty working with international students daily, inspired the idea of the choir.

"Many of these young people are the free fruits of decades of missionary work and return on investments made by churches who supported the missionaries," Barkley said.

Barkley went to Roberts with the idea of the choir, and they agreed it would be successful. There were over 45 in attendance at the first informational meeting.

"This is the first truly international choir of Liberty University," Roberts said. "We have a lot of talent."

The requirement to audition for the choir is a passport from another country. However, exceptions have been made for first generation American students. There are currently about 40 international students from 20 different countries singing in the choir, and there are still a few openings for the spring semester, according to Barkley.

"We are trying to introduce some music that they can sing in English with an international flavor," Roberts said. "At this time, they are learning pretty traditional choir type music, and their voices are superb.

Both Barkley and Roberts have engulfed themselves in the ministry of the international students at Liberty. As an international student advisor, Barkley's role is similar to a student advocate with the added role as a government liaison. She helps students stay in status with their passports.

"It has been a wonderful opportunity to see the world through the eyes of our international students — to be exposed to their culture and language," Barkley said. "The international students at Liberty are so amazing."

Roberts and his wife work independently, but have been closely affiliated with Liberty since 1996. They have an adopted Micronesian daughter in addition to six daughters of their own and consider themselves an international family. Having spent more than 25 years as missionaries overseas, they were challenged to use their cross-cultural experience working with international students on college campuses.

"I've never really felt more satisfied in any other ministry than when working with these international students," Roberts said. "They are sharp, up-Ike kids, and we are really proud of them."

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Dr. Graves’ book gives insight to impromptu preaching

Betsy Abraham

Dr. Michael Graves has authored a book that takes a look at the impromptu preaching styles among Quakers during the 17th century.

Graves published his book, "Preaching the Inward Light," in November 2009 with Baylor University Press for a religious and rhetoric series the publishing company was developing. The book seeks to uncover the idea that Quakers were silent, rhetorical liberals during the end of the 17th century. According to Graves, Quakers were both vocal and extremely conservative.

"They wouldn't have called themselves evangelical, because nobody used that term. They met on the basis of silence, but were rarely silent. They had a vibrant impromptu preaching tradition so that people would come to the meeting and if the spirit moved them, they would stand and speak," Graves said.

Graves wrote the book for a social-inductive method of Quaker history, the history and theory of preaching and rhetoric, and the development of rhetoric. The book covers four sermons in detail, including one of them by William Penn, who founded Pennsylvania and was an important political figure at the time.

Graves, a Quaker himself, first became interested in 17th century impromptu preaching after he started reading the journal of Quaker Founder George Fox. When Graves entered a graduate program, he started research papers on the Quaker's written documents and began to wonder if any of the Quakers' oral sermons had been preserved. As he entered into his doctoral program, he decided to choose Quaker sermons in his dissertation topic.

"This book (published in Nov) is at least three decades old, it began as my doctoral dissertation and that is still the case of the Senate, but all of that has been revised and expanded," Graves said. His research began with discovering sermons in libraries located in Philadelphia and England. Graves was not sure what to expect and was surprised to find that he found so many sermons.

During his research, he faced the obstacle of discovering the different types of terminology used by the Quakers of the 17th century and how they intended them.

"Once I figured out the vocabulary it became easier," Graves said. "I discovered that Quaker libraries don't necessarily catalogue sermons under 'sermons' or 'preaching under 'preaching'. They see other terms like exhortations or similar sort of language. I just looked the sermons on preaching, I didn't find any name set I had to find alternate names, and it suddenly I found out that they were sermons.'

Graves was able to find 79 sermons that he faced the difficult part — finishing the book. Other responsibilities, including teaching, often interrupted the writing process.

"It was a great expenditure of labor and time and energy. There's only so much time you can devote to something like this," Graves said.

Even though the project took more than 30 years, Graves said he is glad to have finally published the book. It is a bit of work that taught him a lot best.

"When you're dealing with this type of research, it's both intellectually stimulating but also feeds the soul. Here are people who delivered these sermons in the 17th century and these words still apply to you today. That's the benefit to doing any kind of religiously-centered study," Graves said.

Graves hopes the book reveals a lot about Quakers and their impromptu preaching tradition.

"I hope readers have a rearrangement of understanding about Quakers'," Graves said. "Secondly, I hope they have a greater appreciation for what took those people to decide that they weren't going to allow prepared sermons."