

Retirees & Honored Guests

DR. BOYD RIST, *Provost Emeritus* | 40 years

Distinguished Professor of History Emeritus, Senior Academic Consultant to the Provost

Dr. Boyd C. Rist earned his B.A. at the University of South Dakota, his M.A. at the University of Minnesota, and his Ph.D. at the University of Virginia. A distinguished professor of history, Dr. Rist has been a member of the Liberty University faculty since 1973. His areas of teaching and research focus on political and constitutional history from the American Revolution to the beginning of the Civil War. He has served as chair of the division of Social Sciences, associate dean and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, dean of the faculty, vice-president for Academic Affairs, and most recently, provost and vice-president for Academic Affairs. In November 2010, the Board of Trustees honored Dr. Rist with the title of “Provost Emeritus.”

Dr. Rist’s professional affiliations include the American Conference of Academic Deans, the Organization of American Historians, and the Society of Historians of the Early Republic. He is also a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Alpha Theta, Pi Sigma Alpha, and Phi Beta Sigma honor societies.

Dr. Rist has served as a member of, and chair of, the Accreditation Commission of the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools. He also served for several years as the accreditation liaison for Liberty University to the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

He and his wife, Norma Jean, are members of Thomas Road Baptist Church. Their daughter, Emily Ruth, lives with her husband, David, in Indianapolis where she is Concertmaster of the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra. She also performs regularly with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and provides private instruction to string students.

Distinguished Professor of History Emeritus Dr. Rist retired from full-time university employment at the end of the 2012-13 academic year, having completed forty years of service.

DR. JAMES VAN EATON, *Math* | 35 years

Dr. James Van Eaton came to Liberty University in 1978. He attended Prairie Bible Institute before receiving his B.A. in Chemistry from the University of Northern Iowa. Dr. Van Eaton served in the military as an engineer for three years, but continued his education through Kansas State University extension while on active duty. He received his M.S.T. in Natural Science from Tennessee State University and his Ph. D. from the University of Wyoming.

During his stay at Liberty, Dr. Van Eaton developed several new courses. His passion for astronomy led to the creation of a new course called Astronomy: An Integrated Approach. Since 2005, Dr. Van Eaton has been involved in a project to build an observatory at Liberty University. He hopes to stay active in seeing this project to its completion, even after he retires.

James and his wife Helen have four grown children, three sons and one daughter. His daughter and her family are on the mission field in the Czech Republic. One daughter-in-law, Hien Van Eaton, teaches Developmental Math at Liberty. Dr. Van Eaton enjoys spending time with his family and grandchildren.

DR. PAUL FINK, *Religion* | 34 years

Dr. Paul Fink has served as a faculty member of Liberty University School of Religion since August of 1979, teaching students how to both study and teach Scripture. Studying alongside Dr. Elmer Towns during his years in seminary, Dr. Fink earned degrees from Columbia Bible

College (now Columbia International University) and Dallas Theological Seminary, where he earned his Th.M. in Old Testament Literature and Exegesis (Hebrew), as well as his Th.D. in New Testament Literature and Exegesis (Greek). Before coming to Liberty University, Dr. Fink taught at Grace Seminary from 1963-79.

Over the years, his influence in the areas of inductive Bible study and homiletics has served as a pillar for the curriculum of the School of Religion. Since Dr. Fink has had the pleasure of watching some of his former students become colleagues in the School of Religion, his legacy of excellence in the classroom will be carried forward into future generations.

In retirement, Dr. Fink will continue to enjoy spending time with his wife of sixty-two years, Mary, and their six children and grandchildren.

DR. HOMER BLASS, *History* | **30 years**

Dr. Homer Blass came to Liberty in the fall of 1983 and has taught here ever since. He earned a B.A. in History from the University of Tulsa in 1962, an M.A. in History from the University of Illinois — Urbana in 1966, and a Ph.D. in History from the University of Missouri — Columbia in 1981. From 1966 to 1983, he taught history at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Missouri.

At Liberty he has taught a wide range of courses, including American History I and II, Modern Russia, Modern Germany, Modern Middle East, British Empire, American Diplomacy, and American Military History. He remains widely loved by his students and respected by his colleagues.

He has been married to Linda since 1975, and they have one son, Scott.

MRS. JANICE DELONG, *English* | **28 years**

Janice DeLong has served on the faculty of Liberty University since

1985. During her first eighteen years, she held faculty membership in the School of Education and the College of General Studies, where she supervised student teachers and taught classes in study strategies. While in that capacity, she also taught Children's Literature as an adjunct faculty member to the School of Communication, and Bibliotherapy as an adjunct to the Psychology Department. In 2004, she transferred to the Department of English and Modern Languages as full-time faculty.

Mrs. DeLong holds degrees in counseling and reading, as well as postgraduate hours in children's literature. Prior to joining the Liberty University faculty, she taught in public and Christian schools, and was actively involved in home-schooling. She also has experience as a social worker and a juvenile probation officer.

ELIZABETH ANN ROWLETTE, *CGS* | **27 years**

Ann Rowlette has completed 27 years of service to Liberty Christian Academy and Liberty University. During her time working in the ministry, Ann has been responsible for overseeing the university's INFT (Information Technology) assessment and course. She has also served faithfully as a member of university-wide committees such as the Faculty Senate and the Core Competency Committee.

Ann leaves a positive and powerful legacy at Liberty. She created and implemented key portions of the general education curriculum, and has enriched the lives of her many students whose knowledge and skills serve them well every day in the workplace. Two of these — Angela Holt and Alison Pettit — now take the reins of the INFT program and carry on Ann's work there.

Perhaps Ann's proudest accomplishment is raising her two daughters, Delanie and Karen, who have blessed her with three grandchildren. Ann will now devote herself to the high calling of ministering to her family, including her husband Kenny, and enjoying the fruits of a career that has accomplished much good.

DR. NANCY ANDERSON, *Psychology* | *25 years*

Dr. Nancy Anderson has taught at Liberty University for the past twenty-five years. Since the start of her career with Liberty in 1988, she has taught a wide range of psychology classes, including Marriage and Family, Developmental Psychology, Statistics for Psychology, Introduction to Research, and Psychological Testing and Measurement. University records indicate that since 1998, she has taught 190 classes and 4,467 students.

Prior to coming to Liberty, Nancy worked as a part-time instructor at Dallas Baptist College, and spent some time in private practice as well. Nancy has been married to Dr. Larry Anderson, also a professor in the Department of Psychology, since 1976. They have two children, Nathan and Janna, one daughter-in-law, Nancy, and one grandson, Collin.

JOANN GILMORE, *Business* | *20 years*

Professor Joann Gilmore has been part of the School of Business for nearly 20 years. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Eastern Michigan University and an M.B.A. from Liberty. She has taught accounting courses both residually and online, and has always displayed a strong commitment and dedication to her students.

During her time at Liberty, Joann had a passion for her students and for making sure everyone understood tax laws. Her service to the Lord, her students, and the university is an example that many will strive to emulate.

Joann's husband, Phil, retired from full-time teaching a few years ago. They will both continue serving as adjunct professors in the accounting program with Liberty University Online.