The Big South Conference is celebrating its 25th Anniversary in 2008-09, a milestone coming on the heels of unprecedented achievements and unparalleled success in League history over the past few years.

Since its founding in 1983, the Big South Conference has matured into a competitive leader in college athletics, actively pursuing excellence on the field of play and in the classroom. The league’s growing presence as an NCAA Division I athletic conference is evident by athletic accomplishments on the national stage, innovative marketing and media partnerships, increased television packages, and quality athletic competition while intentionally fostering the academic, personal, social, athletic and leadership development of each student-athlete.

The Big South Conference was formed on August 21, 1983, when Charleston Southern (then Baptist College) Athletic Director Howard Bagwell and Augusta President George Christenberry began recruiting members into the Big South, receiving initial commitments from Augusta, Charleston Southern, Campbell, Coastal Carolina and Winthrop.

One month later, Dr. Edward M. Singleton was selected as the league’s first commissioner and continued to solicit new members. His efforts led to the additions of Armstrong State, Radford and UNC Asheville, giving the Big South more than the required six members to constitute an official conference. The Big South’s first year of competition was in the Fall of 1984, and in September 1986, the Big South Conference was granted full-fledged NCAA Division I status.

During its infancy and prior to securing automatic bids to NCAA Championships, the Big South made early strides in earning at-large berths in several national postseason events, including volleyball, women’s basketball and women’s golf. The league received its first automatic bid in 1990 to the NCAA Baseball Championship.

In 1989, George F. “Buddy” Sasser replaced the retiring Dr. Singleton as commissioner. Under Sasser’s leadership, the conference implemented its public relations and compliance programs, and introduced its first-ever men’s soccer, men’s basketball and baseball, has received national Top 25 rankings in men’s soccer, men’s basketball, women’s basketball, baseball, men’s outdoor track & field, and men’s golf, had an individual selected to play in the NCAA Tennis Singles Championship three times, had the No. 1 ranked men’s golfer in the country, had the national team and individual scoring leader in men’s basketball twice, received an at-large playoff berth in the NCAA Football Championship Subdivision in 2006, and had an institution finish fifth in the NCAA Men’s Golf Championships – the conference’s highest-ever team finish in an NCAA event.

In 2006-07 alone, the Big South was the only conference nationwide to have an at-large participant in the football playoffs (Coastal Carolina), a team in the second round of the NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament (Winthrop) and a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Baseball Regionals (Coastal Carolina). In fact, Coastal Carolina’s baseball program has been a No. 1 seed three out of the last four years, while its playoff berth in 2006 came in just the fifth-year of the Big South’s football existence.

In August 1996, Kyle B. Kallander replaced Sasser as the league’s third Commissioner, and in his 12 years at the helm of the Big South, Kallander has been instrumental in aggressively promoting the conference to new levels.

The conference has enjoyed record levels in marketing revenue during the past several years, he has brought television coverage to Big South women’s basketball, baseball and softball for the first time in conference history, as well as increased national television exposure to the League as a whole through aggressive and unique television packages.

Under Kallander’s leadership, the Big South developed and initiated its first long-range strategic plan, re-affirming the league’s vision as a distinctive athletic conference committed to the quality of institutional life through athletic competition. He also spearheaded the efforts to add football as a championship sport, which came to fruition in 2002.

Kallander’s long range vision has also included technological advancements, as the conference introduced its first live event video streaming in 2005 and has since expanded its video offerings to more than 500 events annually through a partnership with the member institutions, as well as the creation of a conference blog and an online merchandise store.

The conference’s on-field accomplishments have been duplicated in the classroom. Annually, more than 40 percent of conference student-athletes are named to the Big South’s Presidential Honor Roll for maintaining a cumulative 3.0 grade-point average, and the league has had more than 90 Academic All-Americans in its quarter-century of existence.

Big South at a Glance

Commissioner
Kyle B. Kallander

Associate Commissioner - Marketing
James F. Companion, Jr.

Associate Commissioner - Compliance
Dawn Turner

Assistant Commissioner - Public Relations
Mark Simpson

Full-Time Member Institutions (10): Charleston Southern University, Coastal Carolina University, Gardner-Webb University, High Point University, Liberty University, Presbyterian College, Radford University, UNC Asheville, Virginia Military Institute, Winthrop University.

Associate Members: Stony Brook University (football), Bucknell University (women’s golf), College of the Holy Cross (women’s golf).
Liberty student-athletes continue to score high marks in the classroom, as well as on the playing field due to the efforts of the Liberty University Office of Academic Affairs for Athletics. Equipped with facilities at the Vines Center, Williams Football Operations Center and the Hancock Athletic Center, student-athletes have convenient locations to utilize the staff and resources. Student-athletes receive everything from computer use and tutorial services to lessons on study skills, time management and organizational skills.
Athletics

Since joining the Big South Conference in 1991, Liberty has won 83 conference championships, averaging nearly five league titles per season.


Besides claiming its sixth Big South Sascer Cup title, Liberty also took home the Men’s All-Sport and Women’s All-Sport trophies to become the second athletics department in league history to claim the “Triple Crown” sweep.

During the 2007-08 season, Liberty posted more team championships than any other athletics program inside the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Flames won eight Big South titles, an NCAA East Regional in wrestling and the men’s outdoor track and field IC4A championship.

For third time in athletics department history, Liberty had three CoSIDA Academic All-America honorees in the same year in 2008. Mike Gelatt was named to the men’s soccer first-team squad, Megan Frazee was named to the women’s basketball second-team list and Chleodn Henderson was named to the track and field first-team list of academic award winners.

With the trio of CoSIDA Academic All-America honors last year and Mike Gelatt becoming the first Liberty student-athlete to garner two first-team Academic All-America honors, Liberty now has placed 14 student-athletes in athletics department history on the most prestigious collegiate academic team in the nation.

Among the athletes named Big South Scholar-Athlete for their respective sports during the 2007-08 season were Chleodn Henderson for men’s indoor and outdoor track & field and Allyson Fasnacht for women’s basketball.

Fasnacht capped off a stellar Liberty athletics career last year by being named the recipient of the Mac Rivera/Rock Royer Award, an award given annually to honor Liberty’s top graduating senior student-athlete.

Liberty had 130 student-athletes named to the Big South Presidential Honor Roll at the conclusion of the 2007-08 season. Over 47 percent of its student-athletes recorded a 3.0 GPA or higher in the classroom during the academic year.

Football

For the second straight year, the Flames captured the Big South’s football championship in 2008, completing back-to-back unbeaten league seasons with a perfect 5-0 record.

Capping off its season with its second win over a Top 25 program with a 26-3 victory over No. 14 Elon, Liberty claimed its first-ever 10-win season with a 10-2 record.

Liberty set two program records during the 2008 season in regards to national rankings, as the Flames were ranked a program-best 12 consecutive weeks, while setting a new standard for highest final ranking at No. 14 in the Sports Network poll.

Rashad Jennings, a consensus first-team All-American, became the first student-athlete in program history to be named to the 2008 Walter Payton Award list, finishing eighth in the voting for the nation’s top FCS player.

Volleyball

For the second year in a row, the volleyball team captured the 2008 Big South Championship, giving the program five total league championships.

Head coach Shane Pinder was honored by the Virginia Sports Information Directors once again as he named the VaSID Coach of the Year for the second straight year, while junior setter Kailee Corbin was tabbed the state’s Player of the Year.

Men’s Soccer

Joshua Boetting completed his final campaign in a Liberty uniform in style, as the midfielder was named to the 2008 NSCAA/adidas NCAA Division I All-American team after scoring 32 points on 13 goals and six assists as a senior.

Women’s Soccer

Amy Uberlin joined an elite group of Liberty women’s soccer players when she became the second player in program history to be tabbed an all-conference honoree for the fourth straight year and the third to be named a first-team selection three times.
Cross Country
For the fourth consecutive year and the 10th time in program history, the men’s cross country team captured the team title at the 2008 Big South Cross Country Championship, this year hosted on Liberty Mountain.

Runners from Liberty and Oregon once again finished first and second at the 2008 NCAA Division I National Cross Country Championship, with Oregon’s Galen Rupp this time getting the better of the Flames, as the Buck’s senior runner outkicked Liberty’s sophomore Sam Chelanga to capture this year’s top collegiate cross country runner honors.

Men’s Basketball
Liberty had its second former student-athlete inducted in the Big South Hall of Fame. Men’s basketball standout Peter Aluma was enshrined along side the league’s best student-athletes in 2008.

Women’s Basketball
The women’s basketball team captured its 11th Big South title in 12 years on a last-second, game-winning shot by Megan Frazee, helping the Lady Flames match a school record with 28 victories during the 2007-08 season.

Megan Frazee won both the Big South Player of the Year and Richmond Times-Dispatch State Player of the Year awards in 2008.

Wrestling
For the second-straight year, the wrestling program captured the 2008 NCAA East Regional title, winning the team championship at the Vines Center in the first-ever NCAA Championship event hosted by Liberty.

Liberty sent a program-best six wrestlers to the 2008 NCAA National Championship, seeing Tim Harner (141 pounds) and Chad Porter (165 pounds) advance to the “Sweet 16” rounds.

Track and Field
The men’s track & field team completed a Big South “Triple Crown” for the second year in succession, winning the conference cross country, indoor track and outdoor track championships during the 2007-08 season. The Flames also defended their ICAA outdoor crown from 2007.

Josh McDougall won a pair of All-America honors during the 2008 indoor track & field season, enabling him to end his Liberty career as a 14-time All-American.

Senior Clendon Henderson placed third in the discus at the 2008 NCAA Division I Outdoor Track & Field Championships, becoming the Flames’ first thrower to earn All-America distinction.

Men’s Golf
The men’s golf team holds the distinction of being the only athletics program in Liberty’s history to garner an at-large berth to a NCAA Championship, doing so twice over the past six years (2003 and 2006).

Nathan Schenz-Davis played along side the nation’s best amateur golfers last July, when the junior qualified for the U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship held at the Murphy Creek Golf Course in Aurora, Colo.

Tennis
Jordan Jenkins was named the 2008 Big South Women’s Tennis Player of the Year and Chris Johnson was named Coach of the Year, as the Lady Flames posted a 13-4 record, the best in program history.

Baseball
For the first time in the 35-year history of the program, Liberty won 30 or more games in first consecutive seasons, winning 35 contests in 2008 under first-year head coach Jim Toman.

With pitchers Ryan Pege and Cedric Stokes being drafted in the 2006 Major League Baseball Draft, Liberty has now had 30 players taken in the MLB draft and a player taken in each draft since 1999.

Softball
The softball program advanced to its fourth Big South Softball Championship title game in 2008, moving the squad into third place on the league’s list of all-time title game participants.

Head coach Paul Wetmore picked up his 400th career victory during the 2008 season, becoming the 89th coach in NCAA softball history to reach the lofty career victories milestone at the time of the victory.
In centuries gone by, "liberty" was just a concept - an idea feared by tyrants and dreamed of by the opposed. In more recent history, "liberty" became a cause and a deeply held belief worth fighting and dying for. Today, Liberty University has become a place where students call home ... where people dare to dream big dreams and then work to see those dreams come to pass ... where old-fashioned values and morality still survive and thrive in a world which appears to have forgotten the meaning of the word ... where the undeniable Truth of the Ages still reigns supreme ... where the whole person is educated - body, mind and soul ... a place where you can learn, grow and achieve wholeness as you become all God created you to be.

The Mission
To produce Christ-centered men and women with the values, knowledge and skills required to impact tomorrow's world ... the mission is carried out for resident students, through both undergraduate and graduate programs, through a rigorous academic program and structured social environment ... also, it is carried out externally for students who can't make the trek to the campus in a comparable academic program but without the structure of the resident community, through a distance learning program.

A Brief History
For more than 36 years, Liberty University has produced graduates with the values, knowledge and skills required to impact the world. Founded by Dr. Jerry Falwell and Dr. Elmer Towns in 1971, Liberty University is a private, coeducational, undergraduate and graduate institution. The University offers over 60 programs of study that contribute to the University's standing as the world's largest distinctively Christian, academically excellent and spiritually vibrant institution. The 5,000-acre campus serves over 25,000 resident and external students with a diverse student body made up of individuals from all 50 states, Washington, D.C. and 81 nations.

Liberty is truly a representation of what God can do with a dream and a heart that desires to honor Him.

Location
Situated in Lynchburg, Va., Liberty University is nestled in the foothills of the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains and located on the south bank of the historic James River, in a region rich in history, culture and outdoor recreational opportunities.
Faculty
Liberty University’s over 350 full-time and more than 300 part-time faculty are committed to engaging with students in the challenge of exploring vital links between faith and learning. There are over 450 institutions of higher learning represented among this impressive group. Liberty’s commitment to personalized education also ensures that the student-to-professor ratio is nicely balanced at 25:1.

Degree Programs
In higher education, the principal means of ensuring quality is accreditation by a recognized accrediting body or agency. Liberty University is regionally accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), and nationally accredited by the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS). Additionally, a number of specific programs are approved by accrediting and licensing bodies for specific disciplines (i.e. our nursing, sport management and education programs). SACS and TRACS, in turn, are both recognized accrediting bodies by the United States Department of Education.

Spiritual Life
The Spiritual Life Department prepares students to make a global impact for the glory of God - wherever He leads them.

Life-changing campus church and convocation services connect students with their Creator through passionate worship and powerful Biblical messages custom designed for this collegiate generation. These services give Liberty students first-hand encounters with the most influential Christians on the planet.

Each semester the Campus Pastor’s Office personally trains over 1,000 student leaders who are the catalysts for the positive peer pressure and Biblical community which is the glue of Liberty University. Each year, these student leaders minister personally to their peers and commit to love, pray for, pray with and personally disciple every student on campus. Every student’s relationship with Christ is a priority.

Light Ministries facilitates Liberty’s global vision by providing dozens of opportunities each year for the Liberty community to participate in cross-cultural missions experiences. Already over 7,000 students have boarded planes to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to over three million people.

The Spiritual Life Department is radically committed to aligning the Liberty community with the Great Commandment and Great Commission of Jesus Christ. As the spiritual fires are sparked in hearts - Spiritual Life fans the flame.
The offering that first Sunday, elementary and high school. He began with the creation of Lynchburg Christian Academy, a Christ-centered, academically-excellent, fully-accredited Christian day school, providing kindergarten, elementary and high school.

He obtained his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1987. Falwell, Jr. is licensed to practice in all Virginia state courts, U.S. District Courts for the Western and Eastern Districts of Virginia, United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit and the U.S. Supreme Court.


Falwell, Jr. has engaged in the private practice of law in Lynchburg since 1987 and has served as General Counsel of Liberty University, Thomas Road Baptist Church, Liberty Broadcasting Network and Jerry Falwell Ministries since 1988.

Falwell, Jr. and his father worked together closely since 1988 in the management and oversight of the University and all the Falwell ministries. In recent years, he had assumed more and more of the responsibility for the day-to-day management of the organization from his father who, along with the Liberty University Board of Trustees, named him Vice-Chancellor of the University in 2003. He has served on Liberty’s Board of Trustees since 2000.

Falwell, Jr. has also played a key role in the development of the real estate in the vicinity of Liberty University through the recruitment of many national retail and restaurant chains to the area. These developments have greatly enriched the lifestyle of the University community. Falwell, Jr. is a member of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of the Lynchburg Regional Chamber of Commerce and was named as the 2006 Business Person of the Year for western Virginia by the Blue Ridge Business Journal.

In 1971, Liberty University was founded. Today, over 41,000 students from 50 states and 80 nations attend this accredited, liberal arts Christian university. Falwell’s dream has become a reality. A pre-school child can now enter the school system at age three, and 20 or more years later, leave the same campus with a Ph.D., without ever sitting in a classroom where the teacher was not a committed follower of Jesus Christ.

Falwell was also publisher of the National Liberty Journal, a monthly newspaper which is read by over 200,000 pastors and Christian workers, and the Falwell Confidential, a weekly e-mail newsletter to over 500,000 pastors and Christian activists.

In June 1979, Falwell organized the Moral Majority, a conservative political lobbying movement which the press soon dubbed the “Religious Right.” During the first two years of its existence, the Moral Majority attracted over 100,000 pastors, priests and rabbis and nearly seven million religious conservatives who mobilized as a pro-life, pro-family, pro-Israel, and pro-strong national defense lobbying organization.

The Moral Majority chose California Governor Ronald Reagan as “their candidate” for President in 1980, registered millions of new voters, and set about to inform and activate a sleeping giant - 80 million Americans committed to faith, family and Judeo-Christian values.

With the impetus of the newly organized Moral Majority, millions of people of faith voted for the first time in 1980 and helped elect Ronald Reagan and many conservative congressmen and senators. Since 1979, about 30% of the American electorate has been identified by media polls as the “Religious Right.” Most recent major media surveys have acknowledged these “faith and values” voters re-elected George W. Bush in November 2004.
Barber joined the athletics department at South Carolina in 1996 as an Assistant Athletic Director for Development and was promoted to Associate Athletic Director/Gamecock Club Executive Director in 1999.

Prior to his days at South Carolina, Barber served five years at Furman in Greenville, S.C., starting as Executive Director of the Paladin Club in 1991, before being promoted to Senior Associate Athletic Director for External Affairs in 1994.

While at Furman, Barber was responsible for the collection of $14 million in revenue from annual giving, capital gifts and endowed gifts, while guiding the Paladin Club to gifts totaling $3.75 million and set records for five-consecutive years. He was also the chairman of the Furman Pro-Am Golf Endowment Tournament, which totaled receipts of $6.5 million.

Barber got his start in collegiate administrative at his alma mater as the Assistant Director of East Carolina's Pirate Club in 1987. While serving four years with the Pirates, Barber participated in the receipt of annual giving of $4 million to the Pirate Club, while organizing and managing Pirate Club actions and Pirate Pro-Am fundraisers.

Before joining the staff at East Carolina, Barber served three years in major and minor league baseball as he was the Assistant General Manager of the Columbia Mets in Columbia, S.C. (1985-86) and Director of Operations for the Montreal Expos Spring Training Camp in West Palm Beach, Fla. (1986-87).

After graduating from East Carolina, Barber served as a health and physical education teacher in Columbia, S.C. for four years (1981-85), while coaching football and basketball.

Barber graduated cum laude at East Carolina in 1981 with a bachelor of science degree in health, physical education and recreation. In 1997, he continued his education with a degree from the Sports Management Institute, graduating as class spokesman.

Barber is a member of NAADA and serves on the Board of Directors for the Child Evangelism Fellowship for Central Virginia.

Barber, a native of Greenville, N.C., is married to the former Donna Dacus and the couple has three children – Katie (13), Lindsay (11) and Jay (10).
2009 Season

ATHLETICS ADMINISTRATION/HEAD COACHES

CHRIS CASOLA  
Assistant Athletics Director for Sports Medicine

BILL GILLESPIE  
Strength & Conditioning Director

KRIS SENNETT  
Athletics Business Manager

JEFF ALDER  
Men’s Soccer Head Coach

JESSE CASTRO  
Wrestling Head Coach

JESSICA CELI  
Women’s Soccer Head Coach

CAREY GREEN  
Women’s Basketball Head Coach

CHRIS JOHNSON  
Men’s & Women’s Tennis Head Coach

DALE LAYER  
Men’s Basketball Head Coach

SHANE FINDER  
Volleyball Head Coach

DANNY ROCCO  
Football Head Coach

JENNIFER SYDNOR  
Cheerleading Head Coach

JEFF THOMAS  
Golf Head Coach

BRANT TOLSMA  
Track & Field/Cross Country Head Coach

JIM TOMAN  
Baseball Head Coach

PAUL WETMORE  
Softball Head Coach

Lady Flames - 18 Big South Championships
The student-athlete at Liberty University has the luxury of having one of the most dedicated sports medicine teams in the country. The staff is headed by Chris Casola, Assistant Athletics Director for Sports Medicine who oversees medical care for the Flames football team. Scott Lawrenson is the Associate Athletic Trainer and Insurance Coordinator. Barry Finke and Aaron Schreiner are Senior Assistant Athletic Trainers, while Assistant Athletic Trainers Megan Bishop, Madeline Bosek, Jesse Cops and Laura Hoskins round out the staff as Certified Athletic Trainers (ATC). In conjunction with services available through Team Physicians Dr. Gregg Albers and Dr. Richard Lane at Light Medical, the Liberty University Athletic Training staff utilizes two hospitals, Lynchburg General Hospital and Virginia Baptist, for any emergency or general medical needs. Liberty is also fortunate to have team orthopaedic services from Central Virginia Orthopaedics along with assistance and consultation from Rehab Associates of Central Virginia.

Housed in the beautiful 3,200-square foot Football Training Room located in the Football Operations Center, the main athletic training room is a modern facility complete with the latest equipment. Satellite athletic training rooms are located in the Field House at Williams Stadium, located at the south end of the football complex, the Hancock Athletic Center, the Vines Center and the Crowder-Muckel Fieldhouse neighboring Worthington Stadium.