

Distinguished Alumni – Alexis Airington, Class of 2003

Reflection on one's life, both personally and professionally, can often lead to one question: *How did I end up here?*

Sometimes, there is no clear-cut answer. That's not the case for Alexis Airington (who might be better known by her LCS Class of 2003 peers as Alexis Barker). A mission trip to Belize during her freshman year at Liberty changed her life.

That trip – along with several other mission trips, the wilderness trip, and impact discipleship opportunities – gave her a heart for short-term missions, which set in motion more than she could've imagined as a high school freshman.

Her latest in a long list of accomplishments: being named one of the winners for Liberty's Distinguished Alumni Award. The honor is given annually to two graduates – a male and female – who have made outstanding achievements in their career, display admirable conduct and character in service at church and in family life, and stay connected to the Liberty family.

Alexis, who is "extremely humbled" to receive this year's award, said one of her biggest lessons learned while at Liberty was from Colossians 3:23: *"Whatever you do, work at it with all of your heart, as working for the Lord, and not for men."*

It's not difficult to see she took that mindset to heart.

Since graduating from Liberty, she has appeared in several national ads as an actress. She also created Improv Cookie Company, where she bakes cookies and transforms them into edible art, which has featured anything from Reba to "Star Wars," to Dude Perfect, and characters from "The Office."

"Liberty gave me my foundation as a creative artist," Alexis said. "I was encouraged by teachers to foster that creativity and pursue fields in which creativity made an impact."

But the accomplishment most dear to her heart is getting to write, choreograph, and train hundreds of high school and college students in evangelistic drama that has been used to share the gospel all over the world.

"To be a small piece of the puzzle of people getting to visually see the gospel presented is something I will always cherish," she said.

Alexis worked in youth ministry through camps and Denton Bible Church for 15 years. This gave her and her husband, Travis, the opportunity to serve on mission trips to Trinidad, Austria, and Romania. She currently serves in Bible Study Fellowship as a host and has been a new family ambassador for Liberty this year.

Her servant's heart was forged at Liberty, especially when she was taught to seek out answers by using and understanding the Bible.

"The Lord used my peers, staff, teachers, coaches, and families during my time at Liberty to impact my life in so many ways," Alexis said.

Now, her Liberty Christian School experience has come full circle. She has two children who are Warriors: Hudson and Hadley. She says she's grateful her kids have the same opportunities as she did when she was a Liberty student.

And who knows what moment – maybe a mission trip or encouragement from a teacher – could spark a similar life-altering moment she experienced as a high school freshman on a mission trip to Belize.

"Yes, the campus has changed, and the school has grown," she said, "but the heart and mission of Liberty is the same."



Distinguished Alumni – Matt King, Class of 2002

From small beginnings come great things.

This nugget of wisdom from the book of Proverbs is a concept familiar to Matt King, whose family has been a part of and involved with Liberty Christian School since 1985 (the school opened two years prior). He started attending Liberty himself four years later in 1989.

“It means that I’m getting old,” King, part of the Class of 2002, joked.

It also means he’s seen how the school has transformed from humble beginnings in Denton to the flourishing school it is today with its more than 1,100 students.

Matt is one of two winners this year for Liberty’s Distinguished Alumni Award, an honor given annually since 2013 to one male and one female alumni for outstanding achievements in their career, admirable conduct and character in service at church and in family life, and current connection to the Liberty family.

“It is an honor to be recognized by LCS, as it played a large role in my character and personal development,” he said. “I am proud that I am able to continue my relationship with LCS as an alumni and parent.”

Matt remembers Liberty experiencing rapid growth in the early stages of its existence. He recalls a locker room turning into a weight room and then into a history and Bible class all within a short timeframe. There was even a pool in the middle of campus at one point. And there were portables: lots and lots of portables.

He believes, despite all the structural change, Liberty remains the same now as when he was a student because its underlying goals have remained consistent.

"Having a Christian-based curriculum is paramount to the growth in our children that can have a real-world impact," he said.

Professionally, Matt has served in the financial services industry for 15 years, with 11 of those coming at Merrill Lynch. His main goal as an advisor is to help alleviate financial concerns and give his clients time to focus on other aspects of their lives.

“I believe one of the greatest accomplishments in life is to have a positive impact on others and I hope to do that with everyone I work with,” he said.

Matt says his greatest accomplishment so far is his family.

“I have a wonderful wife, Adrienne, and two great children, Carter and Caroline, who are all a part of the Liberty family,” he said.

Matt says Liberty Christian School prepared him by providing a solid foundation physically, academically, and spiritually to have conviction in his beliefs once he graduated.

“Oftentimes, it is an intimidating circumstance in life when moving out of our comfort zone,” he said. “I always felt prepared for the challenges and obstacles that I faced when my time at Liberty as a student was complete.”

Matt has taken those learned lessons and applied them to mentoring young athletes through youth sports, as well as “worshipping with my family regularly and leading them in daily connection with God.”

Another area where Matt believes Liberty prepared him well was developing his spiritual armor.

“Liberty helped equip me with an understanding of God’s word and gave me confidence to apply that knowledge in my daily life,” he said.

All of this – his spiritual development, preparedness for life after Liberty, and the same opportunity for his own children – became possible for Matt because of a leap of faith Liberty’s founders took. And that’s not lost on him.

“It is remarkable how far Liberty has come,” he said. “With any successful organization, reflection on the beginning always serves as a reference to the present. I am thankful for our past Liberty families leading the way, helping to build Liberty to what it has become. I believe Liberty has an even brighter future.”

