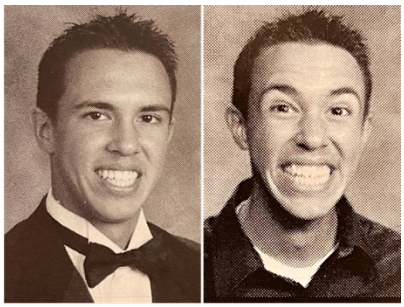
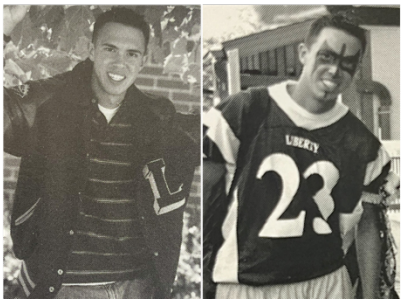
Tyler Curbo, Distinguished Alumni Service Award Winner
(2023-2024)





Get to know Tyler Curbo (Class of 2005), our winner for the 2023-2024 Distinguished Alumni Service Award winner. Learn more about **the award here**.

What does this award mean to you?

Curbo: There are so many alumni that I am aware of (and probably many more that I am not) that are deserving of this award. I am honored and I am thankful to have been chosen this year.

What was the biggest impact that Liberty had on you as a student?

Curbo: One aspect that has always set Liberty apart is the love the teachers and coaches have for each student. Teachers and coaches like Mrs. Lytle, Coach Joiner, Coach Scofield and so many more loved and cared for me while I was at Liberty. This kind of environment provided an incredible Christ-like example for me and helped build a solid foundation as a student.

What would you say is your biggest accomplishment thus far?

Curbo: I am just so thankful for all the opportunities to share the love that Jesus first showed us. Whether it was fostering children, building a cross country/distance program at Liberty, ministering in an impoverished area of Johannesburg, South Africa, or my wife and I now raising our three boys, there is nothing but gratitude to be able to be a small part of what the Lord is doing. While there were marks of accomplishment, it

brings me so much joy thinking about the people in each of those seasons of my life so far.

How do you continue to grow in Christ and serve your community?

Curbo: Very practically, I read the Bible and ask the Lord to give me a humble heart then take action in light of what Christ has already done for me/us. In this season, my wife and I are working to grow our support of a church and school in Cosmo City, Johannesburg, where a pastor and wife have faithfully served the Lord for decades. In addition, we continue to meet urgent physical needs of children and families that are a result of poverty and lack of employment.

What did the biblical component at Liberty mean to you as a student?

Curbo: I feel so lucky to have had my family, church, and Liberty all have their foundation on the Bible. While an education from a Biblical worldview cannot be understated, looking back it was the teachers and coaches that spent time and cared for me. It was the way the staff lived their lives in light of their own relationship with Christ that helped mold me into who I am today.

Anything else you would like to add?

Curbo: My wife and I currently operate a resale business that benefits vulnerable children and families in South Africa. Our Facebook page is **Curbo Family Resale**. We are available to pick up donations in the Denton/Argyle area or donations can be dropped off at our warehouse in south Denton. These donations help us send monthly financial support to a church, children's ministry and families that live in the impoverished area of Cosmo City.

Luke Kornet, Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award Winner *(2023-2024)*







Get to know Luke Kornet (Class of 2013), our winner for the 2023-2024 Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award winner. Learn more about **the award here**.

What does this award mean to you?

Kornet: It is certainly a great moment for me to be able to reflect and have more perspective and gratitude for these different times in my life that formed me. Attending Liberty played a significant role in my growth as a Christian, student, athlete, and friend. I am very appreciative of the environment and relationships that I formed there, and they certainly played a role in who I am, especially in my faith.

God has brought me to some pretty amazing places that especially have a significant role in the larger, secular world and I am glad to be able to acknowledge the places that helped grow my faith and contribute to my God-given identity that exists above these accomplishments.

What was the biggest impact that Liberty had on you as a student?

Kornet: I think the community of Liberty, both in terms of the environment and the friendships, set a standard for the reality of God and faith. After Liberty, I attended Vanderbilt University and then in playing in the NBA, I existed in a more secular society where faith was much less present.

I think in knowing what kind of relationships were possible and what an environment centered on faith looked like, I had an imprint of Christian community that connected on a deeper level than just my academic and athletic success, that still remains more attractive to me than what a non-Christian worldview offers.

What would you say is your biggest accomplishment thus far?

Kornet: So, personally, it would be the development I have made as a servant of God, especially in my roles as a husband and father. God has led me to a place of greater love, sacrifice, and purpose in aligning all my roles to serve Him first and foremost.

However, as an athlete being able to be a part of our Celtics team that won the 2024 NBA championship is certainly the biggest accomplishment in my basketball career. I am very thankful to have been able to play a role on a team that came together to sacrifice any individual agendas and align ourselves to the greater team goal of winning a championship.

It is also the first time that I have won a championship of any sort since winning a holiday tournament at Ponder High School when I was a senior at Liberty, and now having won this championship, I think it was worth the wait.

How do you continue to grow in Christ and serve your community?

Kornet: God continues to call me in new ways to grow and know Him deeper. I am Catholic and spend a lot of time traveling. Attending mass several times per week at Catholic Churches across the country has become a large part of my practicing faith. Daily Scripture reading, prayer, and spiritual reading are also integral parts of my faith. Using free time to listen to engaging faith-based podcasts, videos, and music is another way that I can reinforce truth in a world that offers a lot of distractions. Doing my best to be attentive and loving daily to my wife and children is the biggest way that I serve my community, but conversing and sharing experiences with my teammates and others with the team is something I enjoy doing.

I am trying to find more ways to share my faith and the joy that results with others, whether it be through my play, interviews, or community events.

What did the biblical component at Liberty mean to you as a student?

Kornet: Liberty played a large role in exposing me to a deeper pursuit of Scripture. My mom has always been one to participate in bible studies, but the bible classes and chapels at Liberty were pretty eye-opening in terms of really working through larger portions of Scripture. I am grateful for that time and the curiosity and passion of teachers and other students at Liberty.

I have since become much more interested in understanding Scripture, the larger narratives being shared, and most significantly, the parallels and themes that bridge the Old to the New Testament. Understanding Jesus as the Messiah and the fulfillment of all the great biblical figures and prophecies of the Old Testament opened my eyes to the beauty that God has written throughout history and continues to write in our lives today.

Anything else you would like to add?

Kornet: I just want to thank you for the opportunity to share some of the experiences that have happened in my life. I did not think I was going to play college basketball while I was at Liberty, let alone the professional career I now have. I just want to encourage everyone to remain faithful and keep their trust in God. I had a lot of misconceptions about who God was and He continues to teach me the depths of his love. This often comes through the form of struggle and suffering.

For a long time, my greatest aspiration was personal basketball success and God allowed that to come to a low point so that He could show me that He loved me for who I am and not for what I do. That was a very painful process, but ever since He met me in that place, I better know what His love looks like and that He is to be trusted in all the experiences of our life. We will never be disappointed in remaining faithful to Him.