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June 2013: Summer Vacation

"Where are we going on vacation this year? Huh? Huh? Where, where, where?"

The inquiries probably began shortly after the Christmas break and intensified after school summer break began. Making a selection that is fun, informative, relevant and cost-effective can be a challenge. This time next year, you will be able to say, "Let's go see a Liberty Bell." You'll be back by lunch!



The chance to see an exact replica of the Liberty Bell will become much easier very soon, thanks to the vision of Associate Professor of Legal Studies Jim Benson and the support of many in the community. Of course, we don't envision the bell becoming a substitute for the family vacation trip to Philadelphia, but it will become an integral part of the community as it provides the opportunity to see the bell that will be an exact replica cast by the original foundry. The bell is more than that, though; it will serve as the focal point for presentations, classes and more. Benson's vision is grand, and it gets bigger with each interaction in the community.

The bell, its story and what it represents fits well into university courses in history, government, legal studies, political science and art, to name a few. It will also support the efforts of the Exchange Club, Daughters of the American Revolution, scout groups, church groups, senior groups and more. Professors in the UHCL School of Education are already talking about how to develop curricula with it as they train the teachers of tomorrow. The list of partners, collaborators and beneficiaries of the bell gets longer by the day.

As of this writing, the bell has been ordered and should be completed and installed during fall 2013. The fundraising needs continue for the bell stand, educational/informational materials, and the appropriate environ for the bell to reside. Among the fundraising opportunities, the Belles of the Bell is causing the most buzz. This initiative calls for the placement of 50 women's names designated as Belles of the Bell near the bell's installation. Belles can be named for \$1,000. The basic Liberty Bell Project goal calls for \$100,000, with additional funds to be used for education, outreach and programming. You can learn more by going to the [Liberty Bell Project website](#).

Enjoy this summer's vacation time, but go ahead and put a visit to the local Liberty Bell on your calendars for fall.

For more information about making a donation, contact Assistant Director of Development Elbby Antony at 281-283-2016 or email antonye@uhcl.edu; To find out about the project overall, contact either Dr. Jim Benson at 281-283-3177 or email benson@uhcl.edu; or Associate Vice President for University Advancement Dion McInnis at 281-283-2018 or mcinnis@uhcl.edu.



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