Lee University TORCH
Fall 2014  |  Vol. 56, No. 3

Torch magazine is the official publication of Lee University, Cleveland, Tennessee. It is intended to inform, educate, and give insight to alumni, parents, and friends of the university. It is published quarterly and mailed free to all alumni of the university. Other subscriptions are available by calling the alumni office at 423-654-8316.

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When returning students arrived on campus for the fall 2014 semester in August, they found the Southern end of their university transformed from the way they left it in May. The property and grounds of the former First Baptist Church were rendered unrecognizable from just three months ago, and in its place is a new, albeit unfinished, portion of campus.

What is finished is the Communication Arts Building. The gleaming new structure sits majestically on the corner of Ocoee Street and Central Avenue, with the primary entrance facing a newly expanded Church Street “boulevard.”

Inside its 41,000+ square feet of space is the very latest in communications, containing the most sophisticated, complicated, and costly infrastructure of any building in Lee history. Encased in walls and under floors are thousands of feet of wiring and gadgetry creating a web of technology needed to power the building’s features.

Among those features is a 175-seat black box theater outfitted with a series of catwalks and theatrical wizardry built to dazzle in a small space. Among its theatrical innovations are cables to suspend actors above the audience. A television studio and sound stage are equipped with the latest equipment that even rivals Hollywood. A film-screening and editing room contains a Sony 4K projector with a 4K screen and 4-way masking system. Other student spac-
es include a computer lab, journalism lab, eight video editing suites, and eight much-needed classrooms of various sizes. Previously, classroom space deemed exclusively for communications consisted of two, small, 30-seat rooms in the Dixon Center.

The Communication Arts faculty has long outgrown the space built 22 years ago in the Dixon Center. For years, the growing department has been spread among various buildings across campus, sharing space with other academic disciplines. With its opening last month, there are 22 faculty offices in three office “clusters,” with reception areas on the first and second floors. The average faculty office space is 155 square feet. There is also a designated faculty workroom.

Entering the primary doorway off Church Street, one encounters an impressive two-story lobby anchored by Sandella’s Flatbread Café. Destined to be one of the more popular eateries on campus, the new dining establishment, better known in the northern United States, is the first of the franchise to be located in Cleveland and only the third in Tennessee. The restaurant joins other campus-based, name-brand food options like Subway, Chick-fil-A, Dunkin’ Donuts, and Einstein Bagels.

Outside, surroundings of the new building were being pressure-washed, landscaped, and manicured until students began classes August 21. A series of sidewalks included replacement of aged, cracked ones on both Ocoee and Central and the addition of contemporary street lamps and a modernized traffic signal put in place in partnership with the City of Cleveland. The city also cooperated with the most noticeable alteration of the downtown landscape as three blocks of Church Street were closed for two months as crews removed several levels of asphalt, buried utilities, poured sidewalks, and created a two-lane avenue with landscaped median. To the east, the massive former First Baptist parking lot was literally buried over the summer under multiple tons of earth. When the earth movers were done, what was left was acres of future green space with areas designated for wide boulevards leading to the future home of the Business Department, the new Pangle Hall (former First Baptist sanctuary), and the Communication Arts Building.

All of the above is scheduled to be dedicated in a festive gathering called Celebration 2014 on September 19. Look for complete coverage of Celebration ‘14 in the winter issue of Torch.
Lee students experience cultural show celebrating dancing styles from Dinner Theatre. They are then entertained by a Northern Thai food at the Kantoke Culture exchanging money, students dine on authentic looks on their faces when I point to the trucks and in their waiting Song Tows (trucks with two rows campus and resume on location in Thailand.

The trip is long, and thirty students are weary as they arrive in Chiang Mai a bit before midnight. They scurry off to the YMCA International Hotel in their waiting Song Tows (trucks with two rows of seats in a covered back). I always enjoy the looks on their faces when I point to the trucks and say, “Your chariots await.” After a day of rest, unpacking, and exchanging money, students dine on authentic Northern Thai food at the Kantoke Culture Dinner Theatre. They are then entertained by a cultural show celebrating dancing styles from every part of the country including Candle dance, Drum dance, Sword dance, and Hill Tribe dance. At the end, they are asked to dance with the Thai dancers.

An important individual whom students meet on the trip is Bishop Somnuk Montreladrasme, superintendent of the Church of God in Thailand. Pastor Somnuk is our pastor and spiritual advisor throughout the trip. He and his wife, Lily, oversee several orphanages, but the one our students visit is House of Faith in Chiang Dao. Students are amazed by the children, and the sustainable farm in the mountains of Chiang Dao. Each year the Lee summer study group gives something special to the orphanage. This has ranged from planting fruit trees at the orphanage to buying livestock. The most famous of the livestock were two pigs called Mr. and Mrs. Lee (named after Lee University) who provided the orphanage not only with little piglets, but also with meat.

Professor at Payap University provide our students with various lectures related to current issues in Thailand. One of this year’s lectures was an in-depth look at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). This is a political and economic organization of ten countries located in Southeast Asia, one of which is Thailand. The students understood the importance of the lecture on ASEAN when they had the opportunity to teach English to Thai students at Rongrian Wat Chang Kian. Each year this school looks forward to Lee’s future teachers engaging their students in lessons and activities that improve their English skills. Another school where students visit and observe is Chiang Mai International School, which has students from 35 countries.

An added excursion this year was to the McKean Rehabilitation Center. It was the first asylum for leprosy sufferers in Southeast Asia. From a leprosy colony it became a leprosy hospital and later a leprosy rehabilitation center. Now McKean is a general rehabilitation center integrating leprosy patients and people physically disabled from other causes. Students were able to see the patients at work and buy their handmade crafts at the gift shop. They were glad to know that the profits for the items they purchased went to the foundation to further help their patients.

Though the Thailand Summer Study trip is an academic cross-cultural experience, excursions such as zip-lining, riding elephants through the rainforest, petting tigers at Tiger Kingdom, visiting the Thailand home industries, observing the Hill Tribe People and seeing the most famous temple in the region, Wat Doi Suthep were memorable experiences. Students also enjoyed shopping at the famous Chiang Mai Night Bazaar and Sunday Walking Market where they found a wide range of northern crafts.

This year, the dinner cruise down the Ping River was interrupted by a torrential thunderstorm; but this did not dampen the students’ spirits as they made it through the early monsoon downpour, mostly unscathed. Even with this discomfort and a few others, it was obvious by the students’ attitudes that they thoroughly enjoyed their Thailand experience.

Another aspect of the Thailand connection is the visiting Thai scholar to Lee’s campus. Bangkok Christian College, where we place student teachers, sends one of their teachers each year to immerse themselves in our campus culture and assist in the Thai language class. While the summer study group was in Chiang Mai, two of these former visiting scholars traveled from Bangkok (which is a 10-hour drive) just to fellowship with us. They do this each year.

Two students, Caitlin Almazan and Jordan Padilla, offered the following comments which hopefully mirror the heart of each student who participated in the Thailand Summer Study trip.

Caitlin: “The Thailand trip really opened my eyes to a world very different from my own. Even though we did not speak the same language, the people were so kind and willing to help in whatever way they could. Our immersion in the culture truly helped me understand the people and their way of life better than I would have if a Thai person simply told me about the way things were in their country. Going to visit a temple, a school, a village, and an orphanage allowed me to see firsthand how people work, are educated, and most important how they make a living and sustain themselves. The Thailand trip has opened my heart and shown me how to truly love those who are different from me.”

Jordan: “I loved my cross-cultural Thailand trip! I miss it more and more every day, and I am so thankful for the opportunities I was able to participate in, the friends I made, and the lessons I learned. Furthermore, I am grateful for this university that allows their students to travel and experience the world. I don’t think I would have ever found myself traveling abroad if it weren’t for Lee University.”
President Conn and his cabinet of vice presidents took the ice bucket challenge for ALS seriously as they recruited a front end loader to perform the deed on August 29. They took the challenge in memory of the late Dr. Susan Rogers, a Lee English professor who passed away earlier this year from ALS.
Lee Takes First on List of ‘Most Affordable U.S. Christian Colleges and Universities

Leading Christian higher education resource, Christian Universities Online, has published a ranking of the most affordable U.S. Christian colleges and universities for 2014. Lee University in Cleveland, Tenn. claimed the top spot on the list with an average net price of $11,773 per year. College of the Ozarks in Point Lookout, Mo., and Louisiana College in Pineville, La. were ranked second and third respectively. The ranking can be viewed at http://www.christianuniversitiesonline.org/most-affordable-christian-colleges/. The ranking, which was limited to schools with over 1,000 students and either accredited by the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS) or member or affiliate of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU), considered the average net price of attending each institution, as reported by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). According to the NCES website, “Average net price is generated by subtracting the average amount of federal, state/local government, or institutional grant or scholarship aid from the total cost of attendance. Total cost of attendance is the sum of published tuition and required fees, books and supplies, and the weighted average for room and board and other expenses.”

Average net price is a more accurate measurement of a college’s actual affordability than just tuition cost, said Michael Templeton, lead editor for the ranking. “Many Christian universities and colleges have very aggressive financial aid packages and have other unique sources of support that reduce what may be very expensive tuition costs to a more manageable level for lots of students.” According to Templeton, “We believe this ranking will help Christian students and their families navigate the true cost of attending these schools and find one that fits both their heart and their wallet.”

Lee Gets USN&WR Top-Tier Rating Again

Lee University has once again been ranked in the “top tier” in the 2015 “Best Colleges” edition of U.S. News & World Report (USN&WR). The rankings were announced in a special issue on Tuesday, Sept. 9. Even better news was Lee’s ranking in the 2015 “Up-and-Comers” list. The prestigious list is composed of only 47 institutions nationwide which “have recently made the most promising and innovative changes in the areas of academics, faculty, student life, campus, or facilities.”

Lee was also included as one of the nation’s top study-abroad universities in USN&WR’s list of “Programs to Look For” in the “Study Abroad” category. Lee’s study-abroad program—Global Perspectives—has over 500 students each year travel to 30 countries. “This ranking is the one which gets the most attention across the nation, so it’s good to be recognized as an institution of excellence,” stated President Conn. “To be listed as one of America’s top fifty ‘up-and-coming’ institutions is really special. I think it shows that Lee is becoming better and better known for our high quality.” Of the schools in the category—“Regional University”—620 universities were selected and ranked in four regions: North, South, Midwest, and West. These schools are defined as offering a full range of undergraduate programs, some master’s programs, but few if any doctoral programs. The U.S. News Best Colleges rankings are now in their 30th year, including 1,395 colleges and universities nationwide for this issue.

“Three-peat” for Chronicle for Higher Education Award

For the third year in a row, Lee University has been named one of the best colleges in the nation to work for, according to a survey by The Chronicle of Higher Education. The results are based on a survey of more than 43,000 employees at 278 colleges and universities.

Lee was one of 42 institutions that achieved “Honors Roll” status in the 2014 rankings. In all, 92 of the 278 institutions achieved overall “Great College to Work For” recognition for specific best practices and policies. “It makes me proud to be on the Honor Roll again,” said Chris Conine, vice president for Business and Finance. “I have always felt that Lee University is a special place, but knowing the rest of the higher education community sees us this way is truly affirming.”

The Chronicle ranks schools on twelve categories, and Lee earned exceptional ratings in ten out of twelve: Liz McMillen, The Chronicle’s editor said, “The institutions that the Great Colleges program recognizes provide innovative educational experiences—while also offering their employees outstanding workplace experiences—and we are eager to help readers learn more about them.”

Lee Ranks in Top Five for Study Abroad

A recent listing in U.S. News and World Report placed Lee University as No. 5 in U.S. schools for the highest percentage of students studying abroad. The number of U.S. students studying in other countries has more than tripled over the past two decades, according to the 2013 Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange—an annual survey of study abroad trends for U.S. and international students. During the 2011–12 school year, 283,322 students pursued academic credit abroad, a 3.4 increase from the year before, the report found.

At the 10 colleges with the highest percentage of students studying abroad (including Lee), an average of 83.4 percent of 2012 graduates studied overseas. But those schools were the exception, according to U.S. News data.

On average, about 22.8 percent of 2012 college graduates studied abroad at some point during their undergraduate years, according to data reported by 321 ranked schools in an annual survey by U.S. News. Goucher College and Soka University of America had the highest percentage of students studying abroad. Both schools require undergraduates to study abroad and sent 100 percent of their students overseas. Lee came in fifth at 84 percent, behind Holy Cross College (90%), and Centre College (86%).
FACULTY NEWS

Riley Receives Rahamut Award

Dr. Milton Riley, professor of biology at Lee, has been named the winner of the 2014 Janet Rahamut Award, a recognition given to the faculty member who exhibits the most heart for students evidenced by frequent interaction and positive involvement with them outside of the classroom.

The award is named in memory of Dr. Janet Rahamut, a veteran English professor whose tragic death in 2000 shocked the campus and left a tremendous void in the collective heart of the Lee family. The award was created to honor Rahamut’s dedication to her students, in and out of the classroom. The recipient is chosen by a student committee chaired by the Student Leadership Council. Riley joined the Department of Natural Sciences and Mathematics in 1978, where he teaches a wide range of biology classes. He served as the department’s chair from 1994 to 1996. In 1996, Riley was the recipient of Lee’s Excellence in Scholarship Award and, in 1999, he received the honor of System Educator of the Year for Lee University by the Tennessee Science Teachers Association. He was the first faculty recipient of the Charles W. Conn Servant Leadership Award in 2009.

“Receiving students is my passion,” said Riley. “Receiving this award from a committee of students is highly treasured.”

Echols Receives Presentation Excellence Award

Dr. Evaline Echols, professor of business at Lee, was awarded the Presentation Excellence Award for her presentation of “Tearing Down Walls and Building Bridges Through Storytelling” at the 2014 International Conference on Learning and Administration in Higher Education (ICLAEH) in Nashville, Tenn., earlier this summer.

The Presentation Excellence Awards are based on votes cast by conference attendees who were asked to rate each presentation. Echols received the highest rating possible.

Echols has been working at Lee since 1957, serving her first 27 years as administrative assistant to the president. She then served as chair of the Business Department for 20 years, beginning in 1984.

Thompson Elected to ACBSP Board

Dr. Dewayne Thompson, professor and chair of the Department of Business at Lee, was elected secretary to the Board of Directors for the Accrediting Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACSBP)—the accrediting association for business programs. The appointment took place at the annual conference this summer.

The post is a member of the executive committee, which provides leadership for the greater board. Thompson will also take and maintain minutes of all official action of the Board whether in face-to-face meetings or virtual meetings.

Thompson has served as chair of the Business Department since 2006. He received Lee’s Excellence in Teaching Award in 1997.

Moore and Jenkins Assume New Roles

Dr. Rickie Moore and Dr. Skip Jenkins were recently named associate dean of the School of Religion and chair of the Department of Theology, respectively.

A graduate of Lee, Moore joined the faculty as chair of the Department of Theology in 2007. He had been a full-time faculty member of the Pentecostal Theological Seminary since 1982. Moore received his Ph.D. and M.A. from Vanderbilt University and his B.A. from Lee in 1978.

Also a Lee alum, Jenkins joined the faculty in 2004. He most recently served as the director of Lee’s Graduate Studies in biblical and theological studies. Jenkins received the Excellence in Advising Award in 2012, the Janet Rahamut Award in 2013, and the Excellence in Teaching Award this past spring. Jenkins obtained his Ph.D. in systematic theology at Marquette University, two master’s degrees at Duke University Divinity School, and his B.A. in Bible and theology at Lee.

DAL Spotlight: Lisa Long

Life used to be very different for Dr. Lisa Long ’00, associate professor. Before she began teaching in the School of Religion, Long was a computer programmer and systems analyst who ran a computer transcription business out of her home.

“When my son Joshua entered the third grade,” Long said, “I realized I was bored. I had lost my passion.” Besides owning a business, Long was raising a family with her husband, Larry, and serving as children’s pastor at her local church. She had a passion for children’s ministry, and that led her to Lee University’s School of Religion, but also she has recently been named director of Graduate Programs in Religion. Part of her responsibilities includes supervising the M.A. in ministry studies, which has the distinction of being Lee University’s first fully online graduate degree.

Long says her experience as an adult distance student helps her when structuring assignments for online programs.

“I understand the balance of ministry, family, work, and going to school,” Long said. “I hope my experience helps me provide wise counsel to my students.”

For more information about the Division of Adult Learning, contact Dennis Purvis, director of Enrollment Services, at dal@leeuniversity.edu.

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College of Arts and Sciences

David Broersma, Ph.D.  Associate Professor of TESOL and Linguistics  Ph.D. and M.A., University of Illinois  B.A., Purdue University Dr. Broersma has spent the past 14 years in Russia serving as department chair and later as vice president for Academic Affairs at the Russian-American Institute in Moscow.

Joseph Daft, Ph.D. candidate  (January start date)  Assistant Professor of Biology and Health Science  Ph.D. candidate, University of Alabama at Birmingham  B.S., Juniata College  Mr. Daft’s doctoral program is in pathology with a focus on diabetes-based pathology and immunology. He has been a graduate research assistant and teaching assistant while at UAB.

Laura Mitchell, Ph.D.  Assistant Professor of Public Relations  Ph.D., Regent University  M.S., B.A., Rowan University  Ms. Mitchell taught four years at the Moscow University, while at UAB.

Phil Rickard, D.B.A. candidate  Associate Professor of Accounting  D.B.A. candidate, Northcentral University  M.A., Marshall University  B.S., Concord University  Mr. Rickard has been on the faculty of Mount Vernon Nazarene University since 1996, where he was named to Ohio’s 100 Top Educators.

School of Music

Lenena Brezna, D.M.A. candidate  Lecturer in Voice  D.M.A. candidate, University of Memphis  M.F.A., Louisiana State University  B.A., University of Mississippi  Ms. Brezna has taught music appreciation and been a voice instructor at the University of Memphis since 2005.

Cahill Smith, D.M.A.  Assistant Professor of Music  D.M.A., Eastman School of Music  M.M., University of Michigan  B.A., University of Alabama  B.M., Sanford University  While working on his doctorate, Mr. Smith was a studio teacher, a classroom instructor of piano, and a colloquent teaching assistant at Eastman School of Music.

Nathan Warner, D.M.A.  Assistant Professor of Music  D.M.A. candidate, Stony Brook University  M.M., Manhattan School of Music  B.M., Indiana University  Mr. Warner is a teacher, soloist, and recording artist. He has been instruc- tor of trumpet at Manhattan School of Music for more than ten years and also has a studio at the City College of New York.

School of Nursing

Beth Ann Gist, D.N.P.  Assistant Professor of Nursing  D.N.P., Vanderbilt University  M.S., Case Western Reserve University  B.S., Anderson University  Dr. Gist has served as adjunct professor of nursing at Vanderbilt University. Most recently she worked for the Erlanger Health System in sever- al capacities, including obstetrical nurse, registered nurse, certified nurse educator, and women and infant nurse educator.

Allison LaFramboise, M.S.  Lecturer in Chemistry  M.S., University of Florida  B.S., Lee University  Ms. LaFramboise has been adjunct professor of chemistry at Patrick Henry College since 2011. While in her graduate program in chemistry at the University of Florida, she was a chemical hygiene officer, as well as a graduate teaching assistant in general chemistry.

Squires Library

Julie Burchfield, M.A.  Lecturer and Library Coordinator for Distance Learning  M.A., Regent University  B.S., Lee University  Mr. Burchfield has worked as a library assistant in Squires Library since 2007. Her assignments includ- ed technical services and student training, and she was responsible for directing a complete inventory of the library’s collection.

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Jared Cole, M.F.A.  Visiting Lecturer in Theatre  M.F.A., Wayne State University  B.A., Greenville College  Mr. Cole comes to Lee after serving as an assistant professor of theatre, scenic and lighting designer, and technical director at Oral Roberts University.

School of Religion

Wayne C. Solomon, D.M.  Assistant Professor of Sociology and Religion  D.M., Pentecostal Theological Seminary  M.A., Brown University  B.A., Rhode Island College  Dr. Solomon has served in several ministry capacities with the Church of God. He has been an adjunct pro- fessor at the Pentecostal Theological Seminary and Rhode Island College, Assistant Professor at Community College of Rhode Island, and special lecturer at Providence College.

College of Education

Pam Womack, M.Ed.  Senior Lecturer in Physical Education  B.S. and M.Ed., University of Tennessee at Chattanooga  Ms. Womack has been a part-time teacher in the Helen DeVos College of Education for the past four years and has also taught part-time at the University of Tennessee at Chat- tanooga. She has been a classroom teacher, coach, and administrator in the Hamilton County School System for more than 30 years.

College of Arts and Sciences

Daniel Cutshaw, Ph.D.  Visiting Lecturer in English  Ph.D. and M.A., Old Dominion University  B.A., Lee University  Mr. Cutshaw has been adjunct professor of rhetoric at Patrick Henry College. He has also taught part-time at Lord Fairfax Community College, Thomas Nelson Community College, and Bethel College.

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Dorman Delivers Summer Commencement Address

Lee University alumnus and Georgia College and State University President Steve Dorman addressed over 150 participants and their families and friends in Lee’s Commencement ceremony August 1 and 2.

Dorman challenged the graduates to “listen and look, laugh and learn, love and live” as a means of pursuing a life of fulfillment.

At the Friday night Commissioning Service, graduates Zach Brooks, Shylah Slaughter, Emma-Jane Elliott, Golden Madame, Hanna Larsen, Blake Ray, Jennifer Cornett, and Adam Marroquin all participated in the evening program.

Summer graduation is the third and final of three such ceremonies in the traditional school year at Lee. This summer, almost two hundred diplomas were earned and conferred, of which nearly fifty were for master’s level and above.

Of the total, 156 graduates were able to participate on-site and receive degrees in a full Conk Center Saturday morning.

Dorman ’79 is an award-winning educator, a lifelong learner, and a leader among educators of innovative thinking and teaching. He has taught both undergraduate and graduate students and has served in academic leadership roles at Texas A&M University and the University of Florida.

Since his arrival to GC in the fall of 2012, Dorman has initiated a campuswide program prioritization project, a revitalized diversity program, and a restatement of the university’s brand platform. He has also endorsed a university-wide quality enhancement plan and throughout the local community for the past 18 months, but the idea is officially being shelved for the next five years.

“Today is lots of enthusiasm for football at Lee, and I think one day, we will probably have it,” said Lee president, Dr. Paul Conn, after announcing the final decision in mid-August. “But the Board thinks the timing isn’t right to start it now, and I agree. We will take another look in 2019, and at that time, we may be better positioned to add football.”

Conn explained that four factors discouraged him and the Board about starting football at this time: (1) the launch this year of a nursing program; (2) the ongoing process of gaining full membership in NCAA Division II; (3) the implications of football for Title IX (gender equity) compliance; and (4) the financial demands of the school’s current development of its “south campus” between Sixth Street and Central Avenue in downtown Cleveland.

Dr. Mike Hayes, Lee vice president for Student Development, served as the chairperson for a committee selected to conduct a football feasibility study for the university. The committee then turned its report over to Conn, who in turn, met with the university’s Board of Directors to make the final decision.

The committee was comprised of representatives from faculty and administrators from across the institution, athletic leadership, alumni, and current students. “The committee members dedicated themselves to serving the university for 18 months and submitted a balanced, in-depth study in due course, “Dr. Hayes pointed out.

Member of the steering committee and Lee Athletic Director, Larry Carpenter, spoke of comparing universities of similar size and mission stating they “visited their facilities, met with their coaches, and saw what it takes to run a successful football program.”

“I personally love college football, and I would enjoy seeing it played on the Lee campus by Lee students,” Dr. Conn noted. “We expect Lee athletes to play at a very high level and compete for championships. That’s our goal for all our sports, so football can’t be an exception. If we ever begin football, it needs to be at a time when we can be very good very quickly.”

First Students Enroll in Nursing Program

Earlier this summer, Lee University’s plan for establishing a School of Nursing received approval from its two accrediting agencies for a fall 2014 start date.

The new program, which enrolled its first students in August, received the “green light” from the Southern Association (SACS) Commission on Colleges to add two nursing tracks—a traditional four-year program and a bachelor’s degree completion track for students who are already practicing nurses—to its existing programs.

Dr. Sara Campbell, dean of nursing at Lee, also received a positive review from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), which is the national accreditation body for schools of nursing, based in Washington, D.C. The CCNE accepted Lee University into “applicant status.” Having successfully gone through the accreditation process twice before with CCNE, Campbell emphasized that the action by CCNE does not confer a status of accreditation, but is a “necessary first step” which will lead to a thorough review of its program and an on-site evaluation in the fall semester of 2015.

Lee president Dr. Paul Conn said, “We are thrilled to be taking these two giant steps forward. I am very grateful to the staff at the SACS Commission on Colleges for this vote of confidence in Lee University; we have a very positive relationship with them, and this is really significant to the development of our academic programs and to our students.”

Conn also thanked the CCNE, saying “this is one of the nation’s most prestigious accrediting bodies, and we are looking forward to the interactions with them.”

NCAA: 2014–2015 Is Provisional Year for Lee

In July, the NCAA Membership Committee announced that Lee is deemed to move forward into its “provisional year”—the third and last phase before gaining active membership in NCAA Division II—by completing the process of candidacy membership and will advance to year two.

“I am thrilled to learn of the positive action of the NCAA DII Membership Committee,” said Lee president, Dr. Paul Conn. “We feel that we had a very strong year, and we have learned a lot in the process.”

Cole Strong, director of Special Projects at Lee said, “Our reporting this year to the NCAA was very good news.” Conn also thanked the CCNE, saying “this is one of the nation’s most prestigious accrediting bodies, and we are looking forward to the interactions with them.”

September after the Membership Committee approved eight schools for active status during its July 7-8 meeting in Indianapolis. Of the schools that completed the third year of the division’s membership process, the following advanced to full membership: Azusa Pacific University, Point Loma Nazarene University; Roberts Wesleyan College; Southern Nazarene University; Trevecca Nazarene University, Union University, and Young Harris College.

Eight schools, all current members of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, applied this year for Division II membership. The following were approved for full membership: California State University, San Marcos; Conestoga College; Curtin University; Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University; and Oklahoma Baptist University.

Mississippi College, Roger Williams University, and Spring Hill College successfully completed the first year of candidacy membership and will advance to year two.
We also graduated key performers in Debbie Rogers, we have ever had in Leah Fortune and Ode Fulutudilu. 2014 campaign, Yelton likely faces his biggest challenge. His overall coaching mark of 236-38-10 against NAIA opponents, his clubs dominated play in the Division II tournament play until 2015, the Lady Flames finished in regular-season play, finishing at 14-4-2. Since taking over the Lee women’s soccer program 12 years ago, Coach Matt Yelton’s teams have enjoyed tremendous success. A record-setting four straight NAIA National Championships should be within their grasp 12 years ago, Coach Matt Yelton’s teams have enjoyed tremendous success. A record-setting four straight NAIA National Championships should be within their grasp for leadership. Sixteen of the 25 players on the current roster are freshmen or sophomores. The Lady Flames for leadership. Sixteen of the 25 players on the current roster are freshmen or sophomores. The Lady Flames men’s assistant tennis coach, Patric Hynes has been named Lee University’s new men’s and women’s tennis coach. A 2000 graduate of Lees-McRae College (Banner Elk, N.C.), Hynes became the winnigest singles player in Lees-McRae history. He also was ranked in the top 50 in NCAA Division II singles, and top 20 in doubles. He excelled in the classroom as well, graduating summa cum laude. He worked as the assistant men’s and women’s tennis coach at Lees-McRae (2002-2003) before being promoted to the men’s head job (2003-2004). Before making the move to Indiana and serving as an assistant for four years (2011-2014), Hynes directed both the men’s and women’s programs at Presbyterian College (Clinton, S.C.)—two seasons over both programs and six years as the men’s coach. As a Division II program, his team won the South Atlantic Conference Championship from 2005-2007. He was voted the SAC Coach of the Year in 2006. While helping produce 17 ITA Scholar Athletes and one ITA All-American, Hynes was a force in overseeing the college’s transition to NCAA Division I in 2007. “I’m very pleased that Patric is joining our team at Lee,” said Lee president, Dr. Paul Conn. “He is an outstanding young coach who will bring lots of college-level experience to our tennis programs. I believe he and his family will be a great fit at Lee; he knows what kind of campus culture we have here, and I believe he will build a competitive NCAA Division II program on the foundation that Tony Cayett (former Lee coach) laid over the last several years in NAIA.” On completing his overall roster for the upcoming 2015 season, Hynes said, “It is a big challenge. We’ll start by identifying the players that we think have the tools to make us successful and represent Lee in the right way, both on and off the court. I’m looking forward to getting out to some tournaments and finding our next recruiting class.” Athletic Director Larry Carpenter said, “We received 69 applications and had several outstanding candidates. Coach Hynes brings a wealth of experience, having coached at NAIA, NCAA DII and DI schools. He’s a proven winner and knows what it will take to succeed in the very competitive Gulf South Conference.” The coach noted, “I think one of the things we quickly came to realize last year is that there are no easy games in the GSC. You have to be ready to compete in every match and give your best each time out.”

Michelle Spangler looks to lead the Lady Flames this season.

Women’s Soccer Enters New Season

he entire Lee University athletic program moved up to Gulf South Conference (GSC) and NCAA Division II play last season. Not eligible for GSC and Division II competition against NAIA opponents, his clubs dominated play in the TranSouth and Southern States Athletic conferences. His overall coaching mark of 236-38-10 stands out on all levels. As the veteran coach and his staff prepare for the 2014 campaign, Yelton likely faces his biggest challenge since taking over the program in 2002. “We lost two of the most productive goal scorers we have ever had in Leah Fortune and Ode Fulutudilu. We also graduated key performers in Debbie Rogers, Liz Hagan, and Chloe Woody. We are redshirting defender Laura Thacker, forward Summer Lanter, and goalkeeper Haley Grilber, so that leaves our returning line-up fairly thin.” Yelton will be looking toward Michelle Spangler, Alison Braun, Kinsey Cichowitz and Kaela Ledkover for leadership. Sixteen of the 25 players on the current roster are freshmen or sophomores. The Lady Flames will also bet on a seasoned goalkeeper in Marbel Egwuenu. She received a medical redshirt last season. “Until the season gets going and we get a few games under our belt, we won’t know who is going to step up and score goals for us,” admitted the coach. “We don’t know how players will deal with the season, but I do know that our coaching staff will do its best to prepare the team for what lies ahead.” The coach noted, “I think one of the things we quickly came to realize last year is that there are no easy games in the GSC. You have to be ready to compete in every match and give your best each time out.”

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Women’s Soccer Enters New Season

Klaus Is New Softball Assistant

Andrew Klaus has become Lee University’s first full-time assistant softball coach. The native of Clarkson, Mich., served as an assistant coach at Oklahoma Panhandle State University for one year before moving to East Central University and serving as the Oklahoma school’s assistant coach for the past two years. Klaus brings an impressive coaching resume to the table, as well as his academic marks. While playing baseball, he was named to the Oklahoma Panhandle President’s Honor Roll four times and to the Heartland Conference President’s Honor Roll after registering a 4.0 GPA. “We are very excited about having Andy join our program,” said Lee head coach, Emily Russell. “He is a great hire for our program. Andy has served as a hitting coach for the last three seasons at Oklahoma schools. He has played and coached at the NCAA Division II level, which will be another great asset for our program. His resume speaks about his outstanding technical, tactical, and strategic knowledge of softball, and it identifies his excellent leadership, interpersonal, and communication skills.”

“Tennis is a sport that takes a lot of dedication and hard work,” Klaus said, “I believe he and his family will be a great fit at Lee; he knows what kind of campus culture we have here, and I believe he will build a competitive NCAA Division II program on the foundation that Tony Cayett (former Lee coach) laid over the last several years in NAIA.” On completing his overall roster for the upcoming 2015 season, Hynes said, “It is a big challenge. We’ll start by identifying the players that we think have the tools to make us successful and represent Lee in the right way, both on and off the court. I’m looking forward to getting out to some tournaments and finding our next recruiting class.” Athletic Director Larry Carpenter said, “We received 69 applications and had several outstanding candidates. Coach Hynes brings a wealth of experience, having coached at NAIA, NCAA DII and DI schools. He’s a proven winner and knows what it will take to succeed in the very competitive Gulf South Conference.”

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After an outstanding run in 2013, the Lee men's soccer team appears to be poised for another strong season against Gulf South Conference (GSC) opponents, other NCAA foes, and in NCCAA tournament play.

Paul Furey, who enters his fourth season as head coach of the Flames, has compiled a 34-24-7 record against rugged competition in the NAIA's Southern States Athletic Conference, the GSC, and other NCAA foes.

During last year’s initial season in the GSC, Lee refused to fold in 10 overtime thrillers and placed second in the conference standings with an impressive 8-4-2 record. Overall, Furey’s “heart attack crew” was 13-5-6.

The 2014 unit will consist of two seniors, eight juniors, and six sophomores—all with experience under Furey’s system. Eight freshmen will be added to the mix this year. The top returnees are junior defender, Gabe Franco; junior goalkeeper, Ton Halsall; and junior forward, Arturo Rocha. Franco was voted the top defensive player in the NCCAA National Tournament last season and was a Second Team NCCAA All-American.

“We like to think we answered any question marks we may have had in our recruiting class,” said the Flames head coach. “We feel we are pretty well rounded, and while we’ll have a challenging schedule ahead, we don’t think we have any notable deficiencies.”

“Men's Soccer Seeks to Capture Momentum”

The Flameteam has their goals in place as they enter the new season. “This year our goals are to top what we accomplished last year where we finished second in the conference and were the runner up in the NCCAA National Championship. So if we are going to better that, I think you can see what goals we are striving for,” Furey pointed out.

The head coach and his staff are really excited about the 2014 season. “I believe we possess a lot of the intangibles that contribute to success,” he noted. “We are a unified group. We have the pieces to make this a special season. I believe one of those intangibles is our spiritual element. For many of these guys, their faith is important to them and they believe it should reflect in the way they play. As a group, we don’t want to be just another team. We want to make a difference by doing the little things right, and yet never lose focus of our lofty goals.”

Volleyball Squad Looking to Add to Hudson’s Winning Record

Andrea Hudson, one of the nation’s winningest volleyball coaches, will take an impressive 750 wins against just 249 loses into the 2014 season.

Hudson, who enters her twenty-fourth season as head coach of the Lady Flames, will be working for the first time in 23 seasons without her husband Kevin, who stepped down to devote more time to the ever-growing Lee Recreation Department. Milica Krsmanovic has moved up from her graduate assistant’s role to become a full-time assistant.

Kevin had taken some specific coaching duties in practice that we now have to delegate to the rest of the coaching staff,” explained the head coach. “This has been a challenge, but I am hoping we can get in a new rhythm.”

Not only will the Gulf South schedule be tough again, the Lady Flames will be traveling to Lakeland, Fla. to take part in the Florida Southern Region Cross-over on Oct. 17-18. One of the opponents will be Tampa University, a team that captured the NCAA Division II South Region this past year. Lee will host its annual invitational on Sept. 26-27.

Hudson says her biggest challenge in several years will be “being able to stay in the hunt with an all-new team. I haven’t had nine new players in quite a while, so we are going to have to work hard to compete in the conference.”

The veterans, newcomers, and coaching staff will have a couple of goals this season: “Our goals are to develop chemistry and better ball-control skills. Ultimately, if we do these two things, then we will be successful on the court,” the coach said in closing.
Summer Honors—In July, more than 130 high school juniors and seniors converged on campus for the 28th annual Summer Honors program, providing students an opportunity to earn college credits while enjoying various aspects of campus and community life. Students got a head start on their college careers by earning six hours of academic credit through two courses designed to introduce them to the structure of a university-style class. Besides going to classes, Summer Honors exposed participants to an assortment of other activities such as whitewater rafting, Greek Olympics, an Atlanta Braves baseball game, and a day of service learning.
Flavius Josephus Lee Jr. ’46, died on July 1, 2014. A lifelong resident of Cleveland, Tenn., he attended Bible Training School in Sevierville, and ended his educational career at Bob Jones College, when the college was located where Lee University is today. Lee University was named after his father, the Rev. Flavius Josephus (F.J.) Lee Sr. in 1947. Flavius Lee retired from the Church of God Publishing House (Pathway Press) in 1989 after 42 years of service. He is survived by his wife, Margaret Caylor Lee, son, F. Joe Lee III, and three granddaughters.

Robert E. Drawbaugh ’66, of Newville, Pa., passed away on March 31, 2014. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Faye A. (Weary) Drawbaugh, three sons, and three grandsons. He taught in the Cumberland Valley School District for 35 years, teaching at Sporting Hill Elementary, Monroe Elementary, Cumberland Valley Middle School, and finally Silver Spring Elementary before retiring in January 2005.

Joann Drews Patten ’66 and her husband, Bill, live in Tonto Basin, Ariz., where they are involved in children’s ministry at their local church. They are associated with Child Evangelism Fellowship and have a block party ministry for grades K-5. Of her time at Lee, Joann said, “I only attended one year (1965–1966), but it is an experience I will never forget.”

Bill ’68 and Karen Roberson Winters ’68 visited their daughter and her family who have been teaching in the United Arab Emirates for the last three years. They took Torch along for the visit in front of the Burj Khalifa in Dubai. Pictured is Chad Turner ’92, Jeni Winters Turner ’92, Rachel, Ruthie, and Sarah Turner, and Karen and Bill Winters.

Michael O’Neal ’74 stepped aside as senior pastor for 37 years at Family Church in West Monroe, La., in August. He now serves as founding pastor, along with his wife, Vicki Delk ’74.

Sam Wills ’75 was appointed by Tennessee state officials in June to become the new regional director overseeing economic development in the Chattanooga region. Previously, he was the business development director for the Chattanooga-based construction company—EMJ Corp. He will oversee the state’s job-growth efforts in ten counties and serve as the primary point of contact for existing industry expansions. He is married to Jan and has two grown children.

Janice Doby ’77 spent a large part of her career teaching in public schools. After receiving a doctorate at Florida Atlantic University, she taught science education and curriculum at the University of South Carolina.

Alan and Pam Schacht ’84 live in Vero Beach, Fla., where Alan retired from the IRS Criminal Investigation Division in 2010 after a 26-year career. Pam has been with the IRS Examination Division for 26 years and serves as a supervisory revenue agent. Alan recently returned to work as an investigator for the Florida Attorney General. Both are active at the 20th Avenue Church of God in Vero Beach where Pam ministers in music, and Alan with the youth. They have one son.

Melissa Epps Durham ’99 lives in Marietta, Ga., where she is lead graphic designer for Vineyard Imaging. She and her husband, Joe, were picked to be featured on the June 25 episode of HGTV’s Property Brothers. Melissa and Joe were able to persuade the famous brother duo, Drew and Jonathan Scott, to pose with Torch as part of their assignment.
Shelly Goff ’94, who lives in Chattanooga, Tenn., is a proposal strategy specialist for BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee. She was recently honored with a Pinnacle Award, one of the top recognitions with BCBS. Kevin Davis, manager of Major Account Sales said, “Shelly demonstrates a daily can-do attitude. Her commitment to excellence comes through to our customers who rarely get to see Shelly, but we as a sales team recognize the invaluable role she serves.”

Todd Starnes ’95 is an author and journalist with FOX News. He recently completed a national bus tour promoting his latest book, God Less America, an in-depth look at the war on religious liberty. He delivered messages at some of the nation’s largest churches and keynote address at the Reagan Ranch in Santa Barbara, Calif. He also held a book signing at the Billy Graham Library in Charlotte, N.C., where Franklin Graham said, “We don’t do many book signings, but we do try to get the best of the best.”

John Kevin Davis ’97 is an author and journalist with FOX News. He recently completed a national bus tour promoting his latest book, God Less America, an in-depth look at the war on religious liberty. He delivered messages at some of the nation’s largest churches and keynote address at the Reagan Ranch in Santa Barbara, Calif. He also held a book signing at the Billy Graham Library in Charlotte, N.C., where Franklin Graham said, “We don’t do many book signings, but we do try to get the best of the best.”

Barbara Buckner ’94 recently accepted an appointment as educator professional development specialist at NASA’s Armstrong Flight Research in Palmdale, Calif. She served the last 21 years as an educator in the Bradley County (Tenn.) schools system. She recently attended a NASA social event in conjunction with the launch of the “Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution” (Maven) spacecraft. Here, Barbara is joined by Alex Sturgill ’08, standing in front of the NASA Launch Complex in Cape Canaveral, Fla.

David Swallows ’93 was recently promoted to chief deputy trustee for Bradley County, Tenn., where he will be responsible for the daily operation of the Property Tax Collection Department.

Kevin Christian ’90, recently earned CPRC designation—the highest credential possible for any public relations professional. CPRC, or Certified Public Relations Counselor, is a rigorous process that fewer than 90 people have successfully completed and passed. Kevin is the public relations officer and coordinator of Televisions Media Productions for Marion County Public Schools in Ocala, Fla. He’s also the worship pastor at Wings of Faith Fellowship. Kevin says, “My Lee experience (and God!) are responsible for putting me where I am today. Though I did not major in music, my experiences with Campus Choir, Lee Singers, and especially Second (and God!) are responsible for putting me where I am today. Though I did not major in music, my experiences with Campus Choir, Lee Singers, and especially Second Edition built a strong foundation for excellence not found anywhere else. Returning last fall to play piano for the Lee Singers 50th Anniversary Celebration reignited the passion for excellence in everything I do!”

Becca Sanford Sweeney ’07 married Robert Sweeney on April 12, 2014, in Nashville, Tenn. At their wedding, there were several people who attended Lee and several jumped at the opportunity to pose with Torch. Becca said, “Even our photographer, Sara Bulkey, was able to jump into the picture!” The Sweeneys live just outside of Frankfort, Ky., where their three children attend kindergarden through eighth grade Spanish at Capital Day School.
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You can also email your update and photos to alumni@leeuniversity.edu or torch@leeuniversity.edu.

By postal mail, send your entry to Lee University Alumni Relations, P.O. Box 3450, Cleveland, TN 37320-3450.

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Alex Sturgill ‘08 recently relocated to Bristol, Conn., to work in production operations for ESPN. He is a Steadicam operator for a number of shows on the networks, including SportsCenter, NFL Live, and Baseball Tonight.

Jordan Duke ‘10 holds an MFA in producing for Film and Video at Columbia College of Chicago. He is Operations and Talent coordinator with The Mighty, a next generation media brand devoted exclusively toward creating social change through entertainment, specifically for the military community, veterans, and its families and supporters. They use entertainment “as a vehicle to change the veteran narrative, bridge the civil-military divide, and create business opportunities for veterans and their families in today’s society.”

Zach ‘10 and Caitlin Gibson ‘13 met at Lee while in the Lee University Singers. December 28, 2013, they were married. Caitlin says, “Several of our friends from Singers traveled from around the country to Maryland to share in the joy of our long awaited day!”

Jordan Halsey ‘10 graduated from medical school at the University of Tennessee-Memphis College of Medicine and will be pursuing a career in plastic and reconstructive surgery with a residency at Rutgers N-JMS in Newark, N.J.

Trevor ‘10 and Desi Peckenaugh Brown ‘11 live in East Peoria, Ill., where they recently purchased their first home.

Adam Morrow ‘11 graduated with a master’s degree in higher education administration from the University of Pennsylvania in 2012. He was recently accepted to a development operations position at Harvard University’s Graduate School of Education and is living in Cambridge, Mass.

Zach ‘11 and Ashley Smith ‘11 welcomed their son, Zachary Donald Smith II, on May 7, 2014. According to the proud parents, he currently enjoys naps, making funny faces, and spending money. He lives at his home with his parents in Woodstock, Ga. According to the new parents, “he is an absolute joy, and we can’t wait to bring him along for homecoming!”

Reed Uberman ‘12M is working as an assistant couples pastor and small group coordinator for North Cleveland (Tenn.) Church of God. He also founded and owns Parable Cinema Rentals, which rents equipment to independent filmmakers to, “help them achieve their dreams of telling great stories, with great quality, on a tight budget.”

Gibson

Smith

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