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Lee Archaeology Program Gains Momentum

Most of Lee University’s visible growth over the last 20 years has been in new buildings and increased enrollment. Other kinds of growth have been less noticeable, such as the addition of an anthropology major and establishment of an archaeology program within the major.

Archaeology at Lee has developed over the past decade primarily due to the interests and research activities of Lee anthropologists, Dr. Richard Jones and Dr. Murl Dirksen. Jones and Dirksen have both done field research in Jordan as part of the Karak Resources Project (KRP), a collaborative research project, headquartered at Johnson University in Knoxville, Tennessee, which has been excavating a large Moabite site on the Karak plateau since 1995 (for more information visit www.vkrp.org). Researchers have conducted historical, geological, soil, and cultural studies in order to better understand and interpret the site within a larger regional context. As part of this international team, Dirksen and Jones have conducted ethnographic studies on village and Bedouin life on the Karak plateau. They have also participated in excavations at the site, and in archaeological surveys of surrounding areas in the region.

Inspired by work in the country of Jordan, Jones began developing research projects for Lee University and started conducting summer archaeology field schools with the U.S.D.A. National Forest Service, in the Cherokee National Forest. Most of this work involves ongoing archaeological surveys and excavations associated with the Cherokee removal period (1832–1838) and involve two important sites: Fort Armistead and the Unicoi Turnpike. Fort Armistead is the only U.S. Army fort used in the Cherokee removal that has survived in the archaeological record. This site provides a unique window into the time of the Trail of Tears. In the summer of 2009, Dirksen expanded the archaeology program to include a joint effort with the Montana Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Colorado, under the direction of Dr. Dudley Gardner, a Lee alumnum and professor of archaeology and history at Western Wyoming Community College. Jones joined the fieldwork in Colorado the following year.

“Students have worked along with Dirksen and Jones surveying and excavating in Paradox Valley, Colorado, but their most significant field experience has been assisting with the excavation of the Eagle Rock Shelter along the Gunnison River near the town of Delta, Colorado. Eagle Rock is located near the mouth of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison on the west side of the Southern Rockies. It contains multiple occupational levels and offers great potential for a better understanding of cultural changes from the Paleo-Indian period (10,500 B.C. to 9,500 B.C.), through the Archaic Period (9,500 B.C. to 1,000 B.C.), to the Formative Cultures (1,000 B.C. to 500 A.D.) in both the Southwest and throughout North America. Dr. Gardner remarked, “At this site, every period is represented in the transition from big game hunting (Paleo-Indian Period), to mixed hunting and foraging cultures (Archaic Period), to the development of agriculture (Formative Period). This undertaking at Eagle Rock Shelter...will help us better understand the Paleo-Indian, Archaic, Formative, and Fremont/Ute periods in western Colorado, specifically from a standpoint of the use of cultigens and wild plant resources.”

Over the past four years, students, acting as research assistants, have been allowed to work under the direction of professional archaeologists in supportive roles, such as, data recovery, screening for artifacts, mapping features, photographing the site, sketching of the rock art on the shelter walls, drawing lithic (stone) artifacts, cataloging and faunal material, writing daily activity reports, and helping transport all the equipment into and out of the dig site. This is an incredible opportunity for undergraduate students from Lee to observe how professional archaeologists conduct excavations, and to get experience in all of the support work that is essential to this kind of research. Liesl Reeve, a student from Knoxville who hopes to pursue a career in archaeology, commented about working in Colorado, “It was an amazing and irreplaceable experience, totally worth the time and money I put into it. I learned more in ten days about archaeology during that trip than I may have in three months in a classroom. It was awesome.”

Findings at the Paleo-Indian level included charcoal, grass seeds, sand, stone scrapers, and small animal bones. Excavation of the Archaic Era level has produced a snare, a red sandal, a point with sinew still attached, bone beads, and a burial dated at between 2,000 and 3,000 B.C. Dirksen believes that, “This is an exceptional opportunity for our students and faculty to be involved in such a world-renowned excavation. Having had archaeology courses and summer archaeology field school with Dr. Jones, they are well prepared to assist on this historic excavation.”

“We do archaeology at Lee for two reasons,” Jones said. “First, it gives students who want to do this as a career valuable experience; second, it is good community service that helps preserve and publicize our prehistoric and historic heritage.” Work on these farms has turned up a large number of artifacts and other evidence of prehistoric occupation. At present, Jones and Dirksen are setting up new spaces in the Lee University Mayfield Annex in order to curate and conserve the growing number of artifacts being collected. Jones reports that, “The administration at Lee has been very helpful in providing us space for storage, lab work, and, now, for curating our collections. We have a lot of equipment to store and maintain and an increasing number of artifacts and records to manage. In the future, I envision a website that will showcase our archaeological work and collections—a virtual museum, if you will—and, possibly, at some time in the future, a brick and mortar museum.”

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Screening for artifacts, former Lee professor, Dr. Dudley Gardner, left, is joined by archaeology students (l-r) Erin Williamson, Allie Webb, and Emma Leigh乙vious.
Lee University offers a wide variety of cross-cultural trips to fulfill the requirement of a cross-cultural experience. For the eighth consecutive year, the Department of Business offered the Business Italy Trip in December after the completion of the fall semester. The students spent ten days in Italy visiting the cities of Milan, Verona, Venice, Florence, and Rome.

The students completed course work before leaving on the trip. Upon arriving in Milan we visited Milan’s beautiful twelfth century Duomo, the fourth largest church in the world. We also visited Leonardo da Vinci’s The Last Supper. We traveled to Verona, home of Romeo and Juliet where we visited the Courtyard of Juliet. Upon leaving Verona, we traveled to Venice Mestre where we spent the night. The next morning was a walking tour of Venice, visiting St. Mark’s Square and Cathedral and Doges’ Palace. The students also had free time for individual sightseeing and shopping. That evening, we attended a church service in St. Mark’s Cathedral.

From Venice the tour headed to Florence. We visited the Piazza de Michelangelo, the Duomo, the Baptistry, Church of San Lorenzo, and Ponte Vecchio, the Accademia Gallery, viewing Michelangelo’s David. Students had time for individual sightseeing and shopping in Florence as well.

From Florence, we traveled by train to Rome where on Wednesday, December 18, we attended the Papal Audience with Pope Francis. A bonus of our visit occurred when we were asked by ABC television, on site in Vatican City for the Pope’s Christmas message, to attend the Good Morning America program from Rome after the Papal Audience. We were privileged to be very close to the Pope when he greeted the crowd and we also found favor with the GMA hosts, Josh Elliott and Robin Roberts, who tweeted two messages and a photo to her massive audience: “Hanging with great @LeeU (Lee University) students today at the Vatican. #GoFlames,” and “@LeeU Just want the university to know the students I met today at the Vatican represented you well! They are gracious and wonderful.”

After the GMA program, students visited the Vatican Museum, Sistine Chapel, and St. Peter’s Basilica—the largest church in the world. In Florence and Rome, we attended lectures at the Florence University of the Arts and the University of Rome Tor Vergata. The lectures were about entrepreneurship, family-run businesses in Italy, the current economic state in Italy, and the European Union.

While in Rome, we also visited the Spanish Steps, the Trevi Fountain, the Pantheon, where we attended Mass, Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls and Paul’s chains, St. Peter’s chains, Basilica of St. John Lateran—the oldest and ranks first among the four Papal Basilicas in Rome. We also visited the Scala Sancta (Holy Stairs) that, according to the Catholic tradition, were the steps that led up to the praetorium of Pontius Pilate in Jerusalem, which Jesus Christ stood on during His Passion on his way to trial. We visited one of the catacombs, the Capuchin Crypt, the Colosseum, the Palatine Hill, the Roman Forum, the Arch of Constantine, and saw the Circus Maximus. The students also had free time for individual sightseeing and shopping.

In our tour of these different cities, we walked about 10 – 15 miles a day. Everyone enjoyed the experience and was extremely tired by the end of our life-changing trip.
Dr. Mark Walker delivers the message during spring convocation, held February 9-12.
THE FOLLOWING ARE BRIEF BIOS AND PHOTOS OF THE 2013 RECIPIENTS:

BOWDLE PASSES AWAY; AWARDED SCHOOL OF RELIGION DISTINGUISHED ALUM

Dr. Donald N. Bowdle as the first recipient of its distinguished alumni award. The Distinguished Professor at Lee accepted the award at Homecoming, and returning in 1962 to teach full time for the next 50 years, Dr. Bowdle seemed to us to be the most worthy candidate of our very first School of Religion Distinguished Alumnus of the Year award. This award was not merely for his longevity in the various positions at Lee, but also for his excellence in teaching the Bible and theology to thousands of students who are currently ministering around the world.

Bowdle was considered a master of the Koine Greek text, and he published over 250 articles and book reviews. During his career at Lee, he received the Excellence in Teaching and Excellence in Scholarship awards, and in 2010, was recipient of the Distinguished Faculty Educator Award by the Church of God. He has also served Lee in numerous academic leadership roles, including dean of Lee College’s Division of Religion and chair of the Department of Bible and Theology.

Having authored and/or contributed to numerous academic journal reviews, curriculum and books, Bowdle’s works include, Ellicott’s Bible Commentary, Redemption Accomplished and Applied, The Promise and Power (cont), seven chapters in A Journey Through the New Testament, and three chapters in Faith Foundations for Life and Ministry in the 21st Century. His article, “Holiness in the Highlands: A Profile of the Church of God,” was published in Christianity in Appalachia: Profiles in Regional Pluralism by the University of Tennessee Press.

Bowdle earned his Doctor of Theology at Union Theological Seminary in Virginia in American Christianity and his Master of Theology from Princeton Theological Seminary in ancient and medieval studies. He was also a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Edinburgh and Yale University. Bowdle received his Ph.D. and M.A. from Bob Jones University in New Testament text and theology and his B.A. from Lee College.

Bowdle is survived by his wife, Jean. Together they have three married children and seven grandchildren.

—BRITAIN METHE

MENDIRATTA AWARDED SCIENCE DEPARTMENT ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

Lee University’s Natural Science and Math Department named 2001 summa cum laude graduate Dr. Sudave Mendiratta its Distinguished Alumnus of the Year. While at Lee, Mendiratta served as a teaching assistant, peer tutor, and contributed to two major research projects while completing his degree in three years. He received the department’s Most Outstanding Graduate Award.

Following his Lee graduation, Mendiratta continued his work at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, serving as a teaching assistant, small group leader, and book discussion leader. He graduated Vanderbilt with his Doctor of Medicine degree in 2005, earning the Medical Student Excellence in Emergency Medicine Award.

Mendiratta’s internship and residency were at Emory University School of Medicine where he earned 11 awards for excellence and finished as chief resident of the Department of Emergency Medicine in 2008. Subsequently, he joined the Department of Emergency Medicine at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine in Chattanooga where he rose to assistant professor, the program director of the emergency medicine residency, and the medical student course director.

“When reviewing our recent alumni, we as a department wanted to identify a person who has become not only successful, but also someone who is contributing significantly to the community,” said department chair Dr. Paul Detalusz. “We believed that Dr. Mendiratta exemplifies this quality and is an alumnus that our current and future students can strive to model in their future careers.”

—JILLIAN ELLIS

HISTORY DEPARTMENT HONORS HANNAH MATIS WITH TOP ALUMNI AWARD

The Distinguished Alumna chosen for the Department of History, Political Science and Humanities was Dr. Hannah Matis. Upon graduation from Lee in 2009, Matis was accepted into the M.A. program in Medieval Studies at Durham University in England. Following her completion of that degree, she returned to Lee and taught for one semester. While teaching at Lee, Matis was accepted into the Ph.D. program at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville to pursue training in classical languages and have authored and/or contributed to numerous articles before going on to the Medieval Studies program at Notre Dame, where she completed her doctorate last year.

“Hannah was a gifted student and has now been recognized as an equally gifted scholar,” said Dr. Robert Barnett, distinguished professor of history at Lee. “As a representative of our program and of Lee in general, we couldn’t be prouder of Hannah as she personifies those qualities of passion, intellectualism, and talent to which we would hope all our students aspire.”

—MADELINE WATSON

Lee University Torch 11
BARRY RAY IS DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS
FOR LEE’S BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

Barry Ray graduated from Lee in 1981 with a degree in business. Throughout college, he held multiple positions at the Holiday Inn South Cleveland, and continued working there after graduation as a hotel manager.

In 1988, Ray made a career transition to work at Life Care Centers of America, the nation’s largest privately held senior housing provider. During the last of his 14 year tenure with Life Care, Ray served as president of American Lifestyles, Inc—the assisted living subsidiary of Life Care.

In 2002, he left Life Care to form what would eventually become Legacy Senior Services, a management organization specializing in independent and assisted living facilities. Currently, Ray and his business partner Bryan Cook, also a Lee graduate, own and operate four assisted living homes in the Southeast. Ray and his wife, Iris, currently reside in Cleveland, Tenn. They have three children, Brooke, Blake, and Christina, all alumni of Lee.

“Mr. Ray is the epitome of a distinguished alumnus,” said Dr. Dewayne Thompson, chairperson of the Business Department at Lee. “His accomplishments include a stellar career as a corporate executive, a successful entrepreneur, consistent family man, and demonstrated faithfulness in his Christian commitment.”

—MADLINE WATSON

SUSAN ROGERS
NAMED
DISTINGUISHED
ALUMNA FOR
LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

Dr. Susan Rogers received her Ph.D. and M.A. in English from the University of Alabama, after graduating from Lee with a B.A. in English. She returned to Lee in 1989 to teach, and then went on to obtain the rank of professor of English. In addition to core classes in composition and world literature, Rogers has taught courses in nineteenth and twentieth-century British literature, Romantic literature, and Victorian literature. She was an Appalachian College Association (ACA) Mellon Fellow at Alabama from 1994 to 1996.

“Dr. Rogers exemplifies the achievement, the impact, and the inspiration that we hold as goals for each graduate from our department,” said Dr. Jean Eledge, chairperson of the department. “Her life has spoken and continues to speak in powerful ways to the students, colleagues and broader circles, with whom she interacts.”

—MADLINE WATSON

SHIPCEE RECEIVES AWARD FOR BEHAVIORAL & SOCIAL SCIENCES

Dr. Tetyana Shippee ’03 was honored as the first recipient of Lee’s Department of Behavioral and Social Science Distinguished Alumni award. The award was presented to Shippee in absentia by Dr. Karen Mundy-Judkins, professor of sociology at Lee.

“The vibrant faith and academic excellence of Tetyana testifies to a new generation of Christian scholars in sociology,” said Mundy. In addition to working as an assistant professor in the University of Minnesota’s School of Public Health, Shippee is a widely published author. Her works have appeared in such publications as Journal of Health Disparities Research and Practice, The Gerontologist, and American Journal of Public Health, among others.

Shippee came to Lee from Ukraine. She was awarded one of a limited number of scholarships offered by the U.S. State Department and arrived at Lee as a transfer student. In 2004, Shippee received a Fulbright Fellowship to return to Ukraine to study jurist civil law. As a graduate student, she received the Best Graduate Student Paper Award from the Aging and Life Course Section of the American Sociological Association.

Shippee earned her doctorate from Purdue University in 2008 and currently lives in Minnesota with her husband, Nate, and their daughter, Milena.

—BRITAIN MIETHE

TALLEY AWARDED DEVOS
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

Bill Talley was part of the first class of students to earn a Tennessee Teacher’s License from Lee College in 1968. Talley began a sports career in high school as manager of the Bradley Central High School athletics team in Cleveland, Tenn. While at Lee, he coached a Dixie Youth baseball team and took a group of All-Stars to the Dixie Youth World Series. After his graduation from Lee, Talley was hired as a football assistant and head baseball coach for Cleveland High School. Talley also served as academic counselor for the Texas Tech football team in Lubbock, Texas, coached high school football, and served as an athletic director before retiring.

“He challenged his players to play with intensity,” said Lee professor, George Nerren, friend and former player of Talley. “He gave his best and expected his players to give their best.”

—JILLIAN ELLIS
BRANDON WOOD POSTHUMOUSLY NAMED
SCHOOL OF MUSIC
DISTINGUISHED ALUM

The Lee University School of Music recently honored the late Dr. Brandon Wood as the first recipient of its Distinguished Alumni award. The award was presented by chair of Musicianship Studies, Dr. Phillip Thomas. “We honor Brandon Wood because of his outstanding accomplishments and the ways in which he represented the Lee University School of Music as the kind of alumnus we highly prize,” said Thomas. “He was an outstanding professional in his chosen field who determined to use his musical gifts to share the love of Christ.”

After graduating from Lee, Wood studied at Florida State University, where he was the principal percussionist with the Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra and played with the duet, North Star Percussion, which he co-founded. Over the years, Wood also played with The King’s Brass, an ensemble that provided innovative worship through sacred brass music.

In 2012, Wood completed his doctorate in percussion performance at the University of Kentucky. While still in that program, Wood began commuting two days a week to teach at Lee.

On Oct. 28, 2012, at the age of 28, Wood was the victim of a fatal single-car accident as he returned home to Lexington.

At the time of his passing, Lee president Dr. Paul Conn, stated: “Since he first arrived on campus as a student, Brandon has been one of those students who was a leader, in every sense of the word, among his fellow band students and music majors. His death is a shocking and tragic loss, and he will be greatly missed by everyone in the School of Music and his many friends elsewhere.”

—BRITAIN MIETHE

Lee plans to offer a traditional, campus-based Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing (BSN), as well as a track for registered nurses who are already working professionals.”

—Debbie Murray

Nursing Program
Gets State Approval
by Debbie Murray, Ed.D., Vice President for Academic Affairs

On February 13, the Tennessee State Board of Nursing unanimously voted to approve Lee’s nursing program, granting permission to admit students into the nursing program. This approval is a critical step toward full implementation of the nursing program at Lee.

Throughout the development of the nursing program, the administration has been encouraged and gratified by the broad and enthusiastic support of the community health facilities in partnering with Lee to provide clinical placements for our nursing majors.

Other pieces of the puzzle that have come into focus include establishing an Advisory Council of delegates from a variety of clinical non-profit- and for-profit agencies, community leaders, and faculty members; setting program admissions standards for students; and developing the mission, vision, and goals for nurse preparation at Lee.

Dr. Campbell and her search committee are currently interviewing candidates for faculty positions for the fall 2014 semester. Later this spring, the Nursing Admissions Committee will begin accepting students into the nursing program. Plans are already being made for a new state-of-the-art nursing building that will house classrooms, simulation labs, and faculty offices.

As these last puzzle pieces are added to the picture, the established vision of nursing at Lee—to graduate extraordinary Christian nurses who will influence and impact the holistic health of people worldwide—will come clearly into focus.

"Lee plans to offer a traditional, campus-based Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing (BSN), as well as a track for registered nurses who are already working professionals.”

—Debbie Murray

Dr. Sara Campbell was hired last summer to lead the Department of Nursing at Lee, which has temporary quarters in the recently acquired Monument Building.
The massive transformation of the south side of the Lee campus continues with the new Center for Communication and the Arts rising at the corner of Ocoee and Central being the dominant feature.

In the past three months, the two-story structure has come under roof with the shape of the structure now clear to passersby. Until recently, a plywood fence has hidden the progress from view of the hundreds who drive by on Ocoee Street every day. Now the structure towers above the fence to give a sense of how the new building will enhance the downtown architecture.

The demolition of the one-story former First Baptist Church offices on the corner of Central Avenue and Church Street has also opened the sight lines to the building. Until late last year, the building was being used as the temporary home for the Division of Adult Learning. The DAL has now relocated permanently to the former Monument Building, which was purchased last fall and the interior completely renovated to accommodate DAL, the Graduate Enrollment offices, and the nursing program offices.

At the same time, Campus Safety has vacated their former headquarters on the corner of 6th and Church Streets. The house was razed as major earth moving began this spring. Over the next several months, the landscape between 6th and Central will change dramatically, as a “quad” is created and the portion of Church Street between 6th and Central will be converted into a boulevard.

Interior renovations to the former First Baptist sanctuary and educational wing, as well as exterior changes to the north face of the wing, will be taking place over the spring and summer. The sanctuary is being renovated to become Pangle Hall, a performance venue, and the Department of Business is slated to take over the two and three level educational space.

September 18 and 19 is slated as “Celebration 2014,” a time when friends, alumni, and the campus will gather to celebrate the accomplishments of the south side redevelopment, highlighted by the dedication of the new communications building. Additional details about the event will be unveiled in future issues of Torch.
Lee University Shortens Path to Graduation

significant change to the academic requirements for all Lee University students was recently announced when President Conn told the student body that the number of required credit hours for graduation will be reduced by 8 percent, beginning fall 2014.

The announcement comes following a long process of institutional self-examination where questions were asked such as: “When can a person be considered educated? How many courses should someone take before they’ve earned a degree? What makes a Lee University degree distinctive?” One question started the process: How can Lee reduce the number of credit hours required for a bachelor’s degree without sacrificing the quality or unique nature of the Lee experience?

Lee’s curriculum change was painstakingly developed by the Pathways to Graduation Task Force, chaired by Dr. Carolyn Durksen, director of Lee’s Center for Teaching Excellence, and composed of faculty and administrators. The university took the step in response to a growing national and state focus on making the bachelor’s degree more accessible. The national conversation at the highest levels reveals a changing landscape for university policies, encouraging the higher-education community to help Americans take their training and education to the next level.

“It’s unprecedented for us,” said Vice President for University Relations Jerome Hammond. “But the times call for it. We know families are working harder to get to college. We will work harder to get them through college.”

“It gave us a wonderful opportunity to reevaluate our programs, focusing on the general core,” said Dr. Debbie Murray, Lee’s vice president for Academic Affairs, “and helped us to reaffirm our core commitments: the religion minor, service learning, and global perspectives, with a liberal arts foundation.” Murray said the task force sampled student responses through advisors, conducted faculty surveys, and otherwise tried to get input, ideas, and solutions. “It was our priority, to hear everybody,” Murray said. The current path to graduation at Lee requires no less than 130 credit hours for all of its degree programs. Preserving the distinctive features of each Lee degree added to the challenge the task force faced.

Each graduate completes an array of courses related to Lee’s mission as a Christ-centered university. Lee also requires two additional elements, aside from traditional general education courses for bachelor’s degrees: a service learning component, including eighty supervised service hours, and a global perspectives component, requiring each student to participate in a study abroad, or other approved cross-cultural experiences. These, along with science, math, composition, and humanities, all amount to a densely packed core curriculum, which posed a challenge to the committee. Where can you cut if you need all of it?

After much deliberation, the task force found a workable solution, and it is being swiftly implemented. Six hours will be trimmed out of the general core, and four hours will be eliminated in various ways from each degree program where possible, resulting in over 80 percent of Lee’s bachelor’s degree tracks requiring just 120 hours.

“The intended outcome was for students to easily finish a four-year degree within four years or less,” Murray said. “Students sometimes come in with aspirations and dreams about all they want to study here, about a second major, another emphasis, or adding a minor, and often the practical reality of time and money changes their plans. Another outcome of this new plan is that for students who want to stay in school longer, and who can stay longer, these additional goals are more feasible. Students can do more in a reasonable amount of time.”

Hammond summarized the change, saying, “The university is confident that this revised process maintains that important balance between quality and efficiency.”

Lee’s Study Abroad Program Gets High Marks

In a recent ranking of U.S. study abroad programs, Lee University was listed as number seven in the top master’s institutions, according to data collected by the Institute of International Education.

The information published recently in “Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange” ranked universities by undergraduate participation and institutional type for 2011 and 2012. Lee’s data showed an estimate of 92 percent undergraduate participation in its study abroad programs.

“We have a core requirement for cross-cultural experiences and a generous tuition-funding program for study abroad that makes it financially feasible for our students to take advantage of traveling and learning outside of the United States,” said Angelina McMullin, director of the Global Perspectives program at Lee. “Thanks in part to this ranking, other schools are taking notice and are beginning to make inquiries about how we are able to make study abroad happen for so many of our students. We’re honored to be in that position.”

Open Doors is a comprehensive information resource on international students and scholars studying or teaching at higher education institutions in the United States and U.S. students studying abroad for academic credit at their home colleges or universities.
Three Faculty Receive Tenure

President Paul Conn recently congratulated three newly tenured faculty at Lee. The honor was bestowed by a vote of the Lee Board of Directors. The honorees include LuAnn Holden, Dr. Timothy Miller, and Dr. Heather Quagliana.

Holden came to the School of Music as an assistant professor of music education in 1997, where she served as chair of the Department of Vocal Music from 2006–2011. Prior to Lee, Holden was a member of the Atlanta Symphony Chorus. She earned her M.A. in music education with an emphasis in choral music from Georgia State University and her B.A. in music education from Wesleyan College.

Miller joined the School of Religion as an assistant professor of philosophy in fall 2008. Prior to joining Lee, Miller was a visiting assistant professor of philosophy at Oklahoma Baptist University. He earned his Ph.D. at the University of Oklahoma, specializing in metaphysics, philosophy of religion, and early modern philosophy. His dissertation was awarded the University of Oklahoma’s 2007 dissertation prize for the Fine Arts and Humanities.

Quagliana became a member of the College of Arts and Sciences faculty as an assistant professor of psychology in 2008. Prior to Lee, she taught at Community Christian College in Redlands, Calif., and Azusa Pacific University. Quagliana’s clinical work and research focuses on children and families. She earned her Ph.D. and M.A. in clinical psychology, an M.A. in theology from Fuller Theological Seminary, and her B.A. from Lee University.

Students Represent Lee at TISL General Assembly

Lee University recently sent a student delegation to the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature’s (TISL) General Assembly in Nashville, during which Lee president, Dr. Paul Conn, served as keynote speaker.

The General Assembly was held in the legislative chambers of the State Capitol. The student delegation consisted of Lee students Bailey Brents, Collin Crookenden, Lerryn Kidd, Timothy Monti, Zach Orrison, and Vania Ratliff.

In the House of Representatives, Brents, Crookenden, Orrison, and Ratliff won an award for distinguishing performance of a delegation of representatives. Crookenden also won the Carlisle Award for his exceptional performance as a representative.

Lee was one of 44 Tennessee universities represented, including Middle Tennessee State University, Rhodes College, and Vanderbilt University.

All of the schools participated in activities from Thursday to Sunday, and there was a keynote address by Conn on Friday. Conn shared with the assembly of students the importance of specific leadership qualities and answered questions from the delegates.

TISL is a forum for aspiring college-aged students to come together and learn about state government, where students have the opportunity to participate in a mock government firsthand.

—BAILEY BRENITS
Coach Furey Gets 300th Career Win

The 2013 men’s soccer season for Coach Paul Furey’s club will be long remembered. In its first year of NCAA Division II and Gulf South Conference competition, the Flames stunned GSC opponents by going 8-2-4 in conference play and placing second in the league standings.

The Flames became known as a group “that refused to lose.” Overall, they battled to six ties and played in nine overtime matches. Playing without their two leading goal scorers, the remarkable team still fought their way into the championship match of the NCCAA national tournament before falling to Southern Wesleyan, 1-0.

For Coach Furey, it was a special year. The veteran collected his 300th career win during a win over GSC opponent Shorter University. His team was also presented The Layton Shoemaker Sportsmanship Award, a national honor presented by the NCCAA. The award is in honor of the late Layton Shoemaker, legendary coach from Messiah College.

“This is a special honor in that it recognizes what we are really striving for,” said Furey. “We want to represent Lee, the NCCAA, and our faith in a way that makes us different. Not that we are perfect all the time, but we strive to bring honor to Christ in the way we compete.”

Lee senior midfielder Chevon Roberts was named a first-team NCCAA and NSCAA/Continental Tire Division I All-American. Roberts was joined on the All-American list by sophomore Gabe Franco, who earned a spot and NSCAA/Continental Tire Division I All-American. Roberts was joined on the All-American list by sophomore Gabe Franco, who earned a spot.

Women Lose Only Once in Gulf South Soccer

The Lee University women’s soccer team finished with a remarkable 8-1-1 record in its first season as members of the NCAA Division II Gulf South Conference. Overall, the Lady Flames were 14-4-2.

The 8-1-1 record was good enough for a second-place finish behind powerful West Florida. The Lady Flames were 14-4-2.

Lee won its share of individual honors. Senior midfielder Leah Fortune was named a first-team NCCAA and NSCAA/Continental Tire Division I All-American. Fortune was joined on the All-American list by junior defender Laura Thacker, who earned a spot on the first team. Fortune, a NAIA All-American as a sophomore and junior, was earlier selected as the winner of the prestigious 2013 NCCAA Michelle Akers Award for Women’s Soccer Division I. Since 1997, the NCCAA has presented the award to the women’s soccer student-athlete who best models the values of America’s first female soccer star. Akers played with passion and integrity while excelling in both the technical and tactical aspects of the game.
Lee Volleyball Opens Strong in NCAA

It did not take Coach Andrea Hudson and her Lee volleyball team long to show they were a force to be reckoned with in NCAA Division II and the Gulf South Conference. The Lady Flames defeated West Florida, the GSC champion, in a thrilling five-set match played in Walker Arena to open its first season in the new league. Although Lee University is not eligible for NCAA postseason play, Coach Hudson’s squad went on to place third in the final conference standings (12-6) and posted another 20-win season, going 22-11 overall. The Lady Flames took part in the NCCAA National Championship and placed in the final four, losing to NCAA Division II, Point Loma in the semi-final round.

Seniors Paula Martins and Camil Martinez earned spots on the 14-member NCCAA/AVCA All-American Division I first team. Both earned spots in the NCCAA Championship All-Tournament team.

Martinez joined an elite list of current or former Lee athletes to leave the Flames or Lady Flames for a short period of time to play for their country in world championship events. The senior setter for the 2013 Lee volleyball team was a member of the Dominican Republic team that earned a silver medal in the recent U23 Women’s World Championships held in Tijuana, Mexico.

Women’s Basketball Shines in GSC; Rowe Gets 400th Win

It has been another special year for Coach Marty Rowe and the Lee women’s basketball team. A final regular-season victory over Shorter University sealed the Gulf South Championship for the Lee women who wrapped up the regular season with a 22-4 overall mark and 18-2 in conference play. Lee is in the second year of a three-year provisional period as it moves into full membership of NCAA Division II and the Gulf South. But Coach Rowe will be taking his club up against some very strong competition in the National Christian College Athletic Association regional and national tournaments.

The Lady Flames are paced by All-American guard Hollie German, who is averaging 24 points per game and carries a 3.95 GPA. German, who recently went over the 2,000 mark in career points, has been named to the 2013–2014 Capital One Academic All-America Division II basketball team.

Rowe reached a milestone in his career when he recorded his 400th college coaching win against West Alabama. Since that time, his Lady Flames completed a season-sweep of always powerful Union University. They traveled to Cleveland, Miss. and moved into first place in the GSC with a convincing win over No. 21-ranked Delta State. Lee received 18 votes in the latest NCAA Division II poll, although they are not eligible for postseason play.

Junior Janna Adams reached the 1,000-point mark earlier in the year and has currently posted 11 double-doubles (points and rebounds) this season.

Rowe has special praise for this senior group. Rachel Lockhart, Karley Miller, and Myriah Iles join German as senior leader. “All four have been with me for four seasons and are a special group of young ladies,” said Rowe. “Overall, it is the best group I’ve coached, and they will be hard to replace.” In the midst of their fourth season, the seniors have helped the Lady Flames win 106 games, and they have lost only 18 times.
Flames Struggle in Inaugural GSC Season

The Lee men’s basketball team has ended its first season of competition in NCAA Division II and the Gulf South Conference (GSC). The season has proved to be a rugged battle each night, but the young Flames have shown resilience in tangling with some of the premiere Division II programs in the nation.

Coach Tommy Brown’s club delighted the home crowd at Walker Arena on Dec. 16 as Lee defeated West Florida 82-76 to open up the GSC era with a victory. Junior Cory Billingsley led the way with 24 points for the Flames. Lee would score another milestone victory just three days later as they closed out the pre-Christmas schedule with a 72-59 victory over No. 25 Valdosta State. The contest marked the first victory against a NCAA ranked team in program history.

After a series of setbacks to start play in January, the Flames scored the most thrilling victory of the year on Jan. 23 when they topped West Georgia 83-80, thanks to a last-second 3-pointer by Billingsley. The victory snapped a six-game losing streak.

Billingsley has carried the scoring load all season long for the Flames. He averages a team-high 17.9 points per game while shooting a stellar 52.4 percent from the field. Junior-transfer Tyquan Roberts has provided a spark off the bench for Lee. The forward from Greensboro, N.C. averages 11.7 points and 4.6 rebounds per contest.

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The women's 4x800-meter relay team of Brianna Prugh, Emily Bryan, Jessica Childers, and Cayce Bryan started the day with a second-place finish. They posted a time of 9:35.25 and finished just behind Indiana Wesleyan University's mark of 9:31.52.

The Lee University indoor track team placed an emphasis on the 800-meter distance at the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCA) Indoor Track and Field National Championships, and it paid off in the end. The teams combined for two NCCA National Championship performances and 10 total spots on the NCCA All-American teams (eight coming from the two relay teams).

Senior Brice Sharp drives for keyplay for the Flames.

Runners Win at NCCA Nationals

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Not to be outdone, the men’s team scorched the field in the men’s 4x800-meter relay. The foursome of Justin Kruth, Terris Elliott, Adam Guilette, and Emmanuel Kipchumba crossed the finish line three seconds ahead of runner-up Olivet Nazarene University (8:05.23). "Terris got us off with a fantastic lead leg, and we just kept rolling from there,” said Coach Caleb Morgan.

“Justin kept us in lead with a strong second leg, and Adam gave us a strong enough lead so that Emmanuel could run a relaxed leg and stay fresher for the open 800 later today. I’m really pleased and grateful to get my first national championship as a head coach.”

In addition, Cayce Bryan gave Lee its second national championship of the day with a time of 2:16.65 in the 800-meter run.

Pitching Is Key in Early Season Contests

With his staff worked overtime to replace the dominant hurlers. Following a conference win over West Georgia at Olympic Field on the weekend of March 2, the Flames moved to 11-5 overall and 5-4 in the GSC.

Coach Mark Brew will be the first to admit that Lee’s move to NCAA Division II and the Gulf South Conference (GSC) will not be easy. The GSC is considered one of the best in Division II and owns national championship banners to prove its point.

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Coach Mark Brew has called on early in the 2014 campaign.

Pitching has been a key in the early going, especially as the Flames claim 2-of-3 wins at Union University. Currently Nikolay Uherek and Dustin Laason are leading the way for the pitchers, both owning 2-0 records. Jeremy Stawychny is 2-1, and Kyle Briner and Carlos Ditren have picked up victories. Jeremy Bales and Derrick Pitts have been key forces out of the bullpen.

The Flames have key GSC home dates in March and April against West Georgia, West Florida, North Alabama, and Christian Brothers, plus several interesting nonconference events at Lee’s Olympic Field.

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Freshmen Jamal Worthington, Jervon Johnson, and Stedmon Ford have all seen extended minutes on the court in just their first season with the Flames. Coach Brown has also relied heavily on the veteran leadership of senior Brice Sharp and junior Chad Lee. Sharp is a shutdown defender who usually draws the opposition’s best scorer, while the always aggressive Lee leads the team with 5.5 rebounds per game.

The Flames picked the final game of the season to score their first road victory of the season, defeating rival Shorter University. Overall the Flames finished 10-16 and 6-14 in season to score their first road victory of the season, defeating rival Shorter University.

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Thank you for supporting Lee in 2013. It was a milestone year for alumni engagement. Several long-standing giving records were broken, and no matter how strong and permanent the number of alumni who began supporting Lee last year.

If a university has vital signs one of them is alumni support. No matter how strong and permanent alumni support. No matter how strong and permanent alumni support may appear, if its alumni are not broad-based and consistently engaged in supporting the school it is a key indicator that the university is unstable. The simple reason is that we support what we care about and what we believe provides value. That support creates strength.

Last year a record number of alumni joined in with their support and helped strengthen Lee. We are deeply grateful to all of our alumni who keep Lee strong through their generous support in all its forms. Thank you.
Watch the Alumni Fund Thank you video at www.lee-alumni.com
The quiet serenity of an 8-inch snowfall covered the Lee campus on the morning of February 13, 2014.
Lucille Settle Walker ’45 passed away on December 8, 2013. Walker is one of the legendary alumni of BTS and Lee. As a student, she worked in the president’s office, was one of the first editors of the yearbook, Vindagua, and graduated as the valedictorian. Later she served on the faculty, teaching English and speech, and was a librarian from 1957–1962. She returned to Lee for a third time as director of Student Activities from 1978–1980 and served on the faculty, teaching English and finance. She is the vice president of business and finance. She is the personal assistant to Lee, most recently as administrator of Student Activities. At the time of her death she was a dedicated employee at Lee, most recently as administrative assistant to the vice president of business and finance. She is survived by her husband, Randy, and four children.

Carroll M. Helm ’68 recently authored God’s Mysteries and Paradoxes: Looking Through the Glass, Darkly, which examines paradoxes and how they permeate every area of existence. Carroll recently retired as associate professor of education at Belmont Abbey College in Belmont, N.C. He resides with his wife, Edna, in Mount Holly, N.C.

Randall L. Geren ’69, a resident of Decatur, Tenn., died from injuries sustained in an automobile accident on December 30, 2013. He was 67. He was a teacher and coach in many area school systems and retired from Cleveland (Tenn.) High School after 30 years of teaching. He is survived by two children: Randall Lewis Geren II and Hollie Geren Rappel, and two grandchildren.

Raymond Mercado ’79 lives in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, with his wife, Margie. Mercado holds a master’s degree in theological studies and is the author of the first book of Pentecostal history of Puerto Rico, Breve Historia de la Iglesia Pentecostal en Puerto Rico. Mercado is professor of church history in Universidad del Caribe, P.R.

Kim Crank Ringler ’80 passed away on January 27, 2014 after a short battle with cancer. At the time of her death she was a dedicated employee at Lee, most recently as administrative assistant to the vice president of business and finance. She is survived by her husband, Randy, and four children.

David Anthony Dehner ’86 lives in Watsonville, Calif., with his wife, Ruth. Tony serves as the director of vocal and choral arts at Monte Vista Christian School, voice instructor in Dehner Voice Studio, and sanctuary choir director at First Presbyterian Church in Salinas. Tony’s Vocal Arts Program is an award-winning program, and he recently received the following recognitions: Monte Vista Christian School Educator of the Year; Santa Cruz County Educator of the Year; and Congressional Recognition for California League of High Schools Educator of the Year.

Brenda Gilbert Wynkoop ’89 was recently selected to serve on the International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP) Education Advisory Board. The EAB is responsible for developing programming and content for the IAPP of the Privacy Summit and Academy, providing education to privacy leaders in the industry. She currently serves as the manager of Legal Compliance (Privacy Office) for BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee, Inc. in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Brian Archer ’92 lives in Bethany, Okla., with his wife, Regina, and their four children. Brian is director of custodial services at Southern Nazarene University.

Wildes Crum ’92 and Mike Tetreault ’00 meet regularly at a North Atlanta Waffle House. Wildes lives in the North Atlanta area and is currently selling medical devices. Tetreault lives and works in Cumming, Ga., with his wife Kelly. Mike and Kelly recently welcomed Karleigh Grace in September 2013. They have two other children. Mike works in marketing and PR for the concierge medicine industry and is editor-in-chief of Concierge Medicine Today. He is the author of Branding Concierge Medicine and The Doctor’s Guide To Concierge Medicine.

Vanessa Howard Wood ’96 recently passed the national exam to become a registered medical assistant. She works as an RMA for Premier Surgical Associates in Knoxville, Tenn. She has worked as a medical assistant for 11 years and also writes a blog at vansalahwood.wordpress.com. She and her husband, Michael, have been married for 15 years, and live in Clinton, Tenn.

Jeanine “Nini” Rivera ’00 married Raymond Robles on May 6, 2012. The couple resides in Clementon, N.J. where Jeanine is a health office coordinator for the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, and also a worship leader who travels and ministers with her husband. Nini says, “Together we work as a tag team in ministering the Word of God through word and song to many churches all across New York City and New Jersey.”

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Bryan Montgomery ’07 lives in Danville, Ky., with his wife, Jill, and their two children. He pastors the Danville Church of God and serves on the Kentucky Church of God State Council.

Caleb Flynn ’10 and his wife, Ashley Smith Flynn ’09, live in Tipp City, Ohio. Caleb recently coproduced a live album with musician Ricardo Sanchez, where he was featured on a couple of songs, including the title cut, “Be Lifted Up.” It is available on all major digital outlets and was featured in Praise Charts’ “new and upcoming worship bands.” Ashley is a fifth-grade teacher.

Matthew ’11 and Kayla Smith Keyt ’11 married in June 2011 and moved to Tipp City, Ohio, in September 2013, from Cleveland, Tenn. Kayla is employed by an accounting firm (Kentner Sellers CPAs) in Vandalia, Ohio. Matthew works alongside his father-in-law in the family business, RDS & Sons, a commercial flooring and seating business for churches, schools, and businesses.

Simone Plimpton Puccinelli ’11 and her husband, Michael ’11, live in Cartersville, Ga. She recently built a school for 500 orphans and poor children in Uganda—God’s Hope Primary School. While at Lee, she started a nonprofit called Simone’s Kids. Simone says, “Lee was an essential chapter in my life, and my life would be very different without the personal growth that took place at Lee University.”

Patrick ’13M and Nicole Whetcotton ’13M both graduated last summer with their master’s degrees in the Teaching American History program from Lee. They live in Knoxville, Tenn., with their two children and are teaching at South Doyle Middle School.

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We Need YOU to be in Who's Where!

Who’s Where continues to be the most read section of Torch, but we need YOUR entry to make it even better! Send us your news: weddings, special anniversaries, new jobs, promotions, educational accomplishments, retirements, births, awards...you name it! Don’t forget to include the last year you attended Lee, and a high-resolution photo, if you like (but not required)!

If you are headed to an exotic location or milestone activity, take Torch along and send us your photo with it. Torch loves to travel!

The easiest way to send an update is to visit www.leeuniversity.edu, click on the Alumni and Friends link and then “alumni updates.”

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

If you prefer social media, send us your update on Facebook via message at the “Lee University Alumni” page.

For Twitter, it’s @leeualumni. Use the hashtag #whoswhere

You may not think $8.34 a month would make a difference, but listen to this:

If 1/3 of alumni like you support Lee with $100 a year, we will generate more than $1,000,000 annually for scholarships, classroom equipment, professors, and programs.

This is a simple, but powerful plan that only works if we give together. Alumni can provide current students the same life-changing experiences we had at Lee.

Is this the moment you say, “I’m In”?

https://leeuniversity.edu/give