TAKIN’ UP THE STREETS
In one bold stroke, the Cleveland City Council voted to close portions of three roads within Lee University’s perimeter. The closings will allow an even greater renaissance of change in the south portion of Lee’s campus.
by Cameron Fisher

JORDAN SMITH RETURNS FOR A DAY
The last issue of Torch barely squeezed in the news of the first place finish of Lee student Jordan Smith on The Voice. He returned on February 18 for a day of thanks to his alma mater by presenting two free concerts and sharing the whirlwind of activity that has become his life since winning the title on December 15.

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WOMEN’S LACROSSE COMING IN 2017
A new sport is headed for the Lee campus as it was announced earlier this year that the process has begun to hire a head coach for a future women’s lacrosse team—the first totally new sport to be introduced onto campus since baseball.
by George Starr

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES FOCUS: CHINA
Dr. Jerome and Vanessa Hammond led a group to the nation of China last summer where they visited some iconic landmarks and met with officials of Lee’s partner school, Sias International University.
by Laura MacGowan

CLOWNING AROUND
The childhood dream of a Lee University graduate shares how his experience at Lee and the training he received as a business major prepared him for the “business” side of leading the clown troupe of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey Circus®.
by Cameron Fisher

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OPENING THOUGHTS
from
PRESIDENT PAUL CONN

A SEASON OF FAREWELLS

"Old soldiers never die; they just fade away. . ." said U.S. Army General Douglas McArthur, in his famous farewell speech at West Point many years ago.

This spring is a season of farewells here at Lee University, with some of the "old soldiers" who have served Lee students for almost half a century leaving their posts.

Five of Lee’s longest-serving professors have announced their retirements at the end of the spring semester. They include two friends from the Department of Natural Science and Mathematics—Ron Harris and Robert Griffith—and two colleagues from the Department of Business—Evaline Echols and Alan Burns. Also retiring from his senior adjunct position is Distinguished Professor of Sociology, Ollie J. Lee.

Only two teachers in Lee history have served fifty consecutive years on the full-time faculty, and Ron Harris reaches that milestone in May. (The other is the late Donald N. Bowdle.) Harris began as a physical science professor in 1966. Not far behind him is a close friend who has taught mathematics in the same department for 45 of those years, Bob Griffith. The two men rank No. 1 and No. 3 in years of seniority on the current Lee faculty, and will reach retirement together. Both will continue to live in Cleveland and teach occasional part-time courses.

Across campus, in the Department of Business, another two colleagues will take their bows at the same time. Dr. Evaline Echols joined the faculty in 1984, and served as department chair for many of those years. But before ’84, she had a distinguished career as administrative assistant to the president at Lee, serving 27 years in that important role before moving over to the faculty. Dr. Echols is the longest-serving employee in Lee’s history, and will continue to serve on an adjunct basis as she moves into retirement this summer.

Alan Burns also joined the Lee faculty as a "second career," after many years in the United States Air Force, and has been a stalwart on the Business faculty since 1979.

Ollie Lee finally reaches the end of a distinguished Lee career. In addition to teaching sociology for half a century, he led the Lee faculty for eleven years during one of its most transformative periods (1987–1998), and before that supervised many of today’s senior faculty—including myself—while he was dean of Arts and Sciences in the 1970s.

For each of these “old soldiers,” there will be private and individual farewells of various types, but for all of us, I offer the collective gratitude of thousands of alums whose lives they touched.
Construction on projects that will anchor the Southern end of the Lee campus have picked up steam and are progressing toward completion for a growing student body.

Most dominant is the new School of Nursing, which has arisen three stories from its foundation on Church Street in a matter of weeks. According to Cole Strong, assistant vice president of operations at Lee, the steel placement was 85 percent complete as of mid-February with concrete slab floors being hoisted into place by a massive crane that could be seen a mile away. The skeletal shape of the three-story building was clearly visible until the outside was wrapped in insulating sheets in preparation for brick and mortar.

Inside, contractors were scattered throughout the building rigging it for a complex maze of plumbing and electrical circuitry necessary for a School of Nursing.

“We made some great progress in January and February,” Strong said. “Trusses are being delivered, and soon we will be under roof. We are on an accelerated timeframe and hitting on all cylinders!”

Surrounding the School of Nursing, movement on parcels of property is happening at a rapid pace. Last summer five aged houses between Parker and Trunk Streets were razed within a two-day period, opening up new sight lines and creating green space and future parking. Since then, Lee has acquired more than a dozen additional properties in a location that abuts the southeast corner of campus.

On February 8, the Cleveland City Council voted unanimously to close sections of three streets in the areas where Lee has acquired all properties. Lee’s border has now advanced more aggressively along Walker Street, one street east of Trunk. Parcels where rental houses have languished for decades in a state of disrepair will soon be transformed into green space, parking, and possible athletic fields (see diagram at right).

The street closures will take place in the vicinity of three women’s residences: Livingston Hall, Livingston East, and Keeble Hall. The longest is a three-block section of 6th Street, which will be closed between Church and Walker Streets. A portion of Trunk Street, which runs between the three residences, will be closed, as well as a one-block section of 5th Street. Since Lee acquired the old First Baptist property six years ago, the Communication Arts Building and the School of Nursing have swallowed block sections of 4th and 5th Streets respectively.

When standing before city leaders on February 8 to make the appeal for the closures, President Conn stated, “The renaissance at Lee University started in this room 29 years ago, when 29 years ago, the City Commission, at that time five members, voted to allow Lee to take a little piece of Church Street and to begin to develop an intelligently organized, coherent, attractive campus. That was bigger than just that one street. It was a catalyst for everything that followed.”
The School of Nursing (SON) operates differently than other academics on campus. To fit 1-2 days of clinical rotations per week at local healthcare facilities, scheduling is extremely complex. Classes are longer and meet only once a week.

Scheduling of lab space becomes trickier, as well, with more students each year. This semester the SON has 10 labs and 11 clinical sections, with 8-11 students per section. Additionally, open lab times have to be planned for skills practice.

Because clinical groups are small (6 to 8 students) and clinical days are long (6–12 hours) during days, evenings, nights, or weekends, further scheduling pressure is added. Also, clinical rotations can be difficult to obtain. For example, this semester we have nursing students and faculty on 12-hour shifts on Saturdays at Children’s Hospital in Chattanooga.

The lab and simulation space in the new building will help tremendously with scheduling. Use of simulation scenarios will allow students to have a broad range of experiences that they might not otherwise get, easing the pressure of scheduling at healthcare facilities. That translates to the SON being less concerned about clinical site availability and therefore able to admit more students.

Stay tuned; the building is going up!
Jordan Smith came home. The Lee University senior who rose to nationwide fame, capturing first place on "The Voice" last December, returned to Lee for the first time since being crowned champion of Season 9 of the popular talent search competition.

"I feel like I am back at home," Smith, a native of Harlan, Kentucky, said when he was the guest of honor all day on the Lee campus—Thursday, February 18. In a morning press conference, Jordan sung the praises of his experience at Lee as the place where he received critical training and support for his three-month stint on the NBC show.

"The Voice" is a nationally televised talent search where four celebrity judges mentor amateur vocalists. Smith began his run as a contestant last fall when he performed in a blind audition the song, "Chandelier." The judges decide whether to spin their chairs around based upon what they hear. Vocalist and pop star Adam Levine, a judge who would become Smith's mentor on the show, called Jordan, "the most important person ever to perform on this show." Jordan would go on to win the competition on December 15, following weeks of online nationwide voting.

Jordan's day at Lee included a morning press conference with media from as far away as Knoxville, followed by a chapel service where he led praise and worship as he had done many times as a student. He chatted with the capacity crowd in the Conn Center before launching into his rendition of "Great Is Thy Faithfulness." Jordan performed the hymn as part of the competition, and it soared to the top of the iTunes music charts, garnering the most downloads, even dethroning superstar singer, Adele. The climax of the morning chapel was a reprise of another of his most popular "Voice" performances, "Somebody to Love," with his fellow Lee Singers serving as his backup choir.

President Conn congratulated Jordan on his stellar representation of Lee University to the world and invited the student body to a "Kentucky lunch" in nearby Walker Arena, where Jordan spent an hour greeting students and posing for photos. He concluded his visit with a second concert for the community, held that evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Conn Center.

At this time last year, Jordan was a junior music business major at Lee. He has placed his education on hold, but expressed his desire to return to his alma mater.

"My life has been a whirlwind," Jordan told media gathered in the Centenary Room. "But I wanted to be sure I got back "home" (Lee), because everything I learned and experienced here formed who I am. Lee has been my family and it is a very comfortable place. Some of my favorite memories were singing and traveling with friends. It is very special to be back."
TWO MONTHS IN THE LIFE OF JORDAN SMITH:

- Winning “The Voice”
- Becoming engaged to Kristen Denny!
- Appearing on the “Today Show”
- Singing the National Anthem at the NHL Winter Classic in Foxboro, Mass.
- Singing a solo at the People’s Choice Awards
- Interviewed by Pastor Rick Warren
- Singing the National Anthem at Carolina-Seattle NFL playoff game
- Named “Kentuckian of the Year” by Kentucky Monthly
- Performing at Carnegie Hall for the Muscular Dystrophy Association
- Performing at the National Prayer Breakfast
- Featured performer at the Super Bowl of Gospel on BET
- Attending the Super Bowl
- Completing his debut album, Something Beautiful, produced by David Foster
- Performing two concerts at Lee

SANDERSON CHALLENGES LEE GRADS: “DON’T BE A NOWHERE MAN”

by Karen Chambless

Lee University conferred more than 250 degrees during winter commencement on Saturday, December 12. Graduates, faculty, family, and friends filled the festively decorated Conn Center for the event where speaker Dr. Carla Sanderson addressed attendees.

Sanderson, vice president of accreditation and professional regulation at Chamberlain College of Nursing, has previously served for 32 years as provost and executive vice president for strategic initiatives at Union University. She has been a leader in nursing education at Union and at Chamberlain.

Sanderson encouraged graduates to seek their vocational identity and to help God make something out of their lives. She quoted several songs to make her point, including the Beatles’ “Nowhere Man” and “Little Drummer Boy.”

Of the degrees conferred during Lee’s final graduation event of 2015, more than 220 were bachelor’s degrees. Winter commencement is one of three graduation weekends at Lee each year, the other two being in May and August.

During the ceremony, the Lee University Chorale provided special music.

Graduation was preceded by a commissioning service on Friday night, which featured several graduating participants, including six student speakers sharing their experiences at Lee. These included Madison Alexander, Victoria Brock, Jordan Freshwater, Alonzo Malvarez, Derek Murray, and Kelsie Wymore.

Tennessee Congressman Chuck Fleischmann, center, presents Jordan with a Congressional Commendation. Cleveland Mayor Tom Rowland, right, presented Jordan with a Key to the City of Cleveland.
FOUR VETERANS ANNOUNCE TRANSITIONS

Four long-time members of the Lee faculty have announced transitions in their teaching roles effective at the end of this semester. Combined, the four represent a total of 165 years and an average of 41.2 years of service.

Topping the list of these veterans for length of service is Ron Harris, associate professor of science education. He joined the faculty in 1966, the same year as the opening of the previous science building that was razed to make way for the current Science and Math Complex. Harris will complete a full 50 years at the end of this semester and plans to fully retire from teaching.

Alan Burns, associate professor of business, has also announced his intentions to retire following the completion of this semester. Burns joined the Business Department in 1979.

Two other veterans have announced that they will continue on the faculty, but on a limited or part-time basis, and have thus been named senior adjunct faculty.

Bob Griffith, an associate professor of mathematics since 1970, will be transitioning after 46 years of faculty membership at Lee.

Dr. Evaline Echols, professor of business education, joined the business faculty in 1984 (32 years). The former chair of the Business Department, Dr. Echols has the longest tenure of any employee in Lee University history. Prior to her 32 years on the faculty, she was administrative assistant to the president for 27 years.

WILLIAMS ELECTED TO THEATRE LEADERSHIP

Associate Professor of Theatre Dr. Christi- tine Williams was recently elected to positions of leadership with the Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) and the Tennessee Theatre Association (TTA).

Within the ATHE, Williams was reelected as the Research and Development officer of the theatre as a Liberal Arts focus group. Her primary role is to investigate options for supporting focus group members’ research. She has served in this role for four years.

As the East Tennessee Area representative for the TTA, Williams’ role is to promote activities and resources of the TTA to local theatre artists, as well as bring these artists’ concerns to the TTA Board.

WOOLFITT PUBLISHES SECOND BOOK OF POETRY

Dr. William Woolfitt, assistant professor of creative writing, has finished his second book, Charles of the Desert, to be published by Paraclete Press.

Woolfitt’s book of poetry tells the story of Charles de Foucauld who experienced a profound spiritual transformation before becoming a missionary to the Tuareg in southern Algeria in 1901. Mr. De Foucauld is best known for writing the “Prayer of Abandonment,” a common prayer of surrender in Christianity.

The publication follows Beauty Strip, Woolfitt’s first full-length book of poems, and his chapbooks, The Salvager’s Arts, cowinner of the Keystone Prize, and The Boy with Fire in His Mouth, winner of the Epiphany Editions contest.
Ten Lee Faculty Awarded Tenure

Following the annual board meeting in January, the Lee University Board of Directors awarded tenure to ten faculty members, effective August 2016. The new tenured faculty members are Daniela Augustine, Daniel Buck, Ingrid Hart, Aaron Johnson, Mary McCampbell, Debra Mimbs, Thomas Pope, Mark Proctor, Chad Schrock, and Jared Wielfaert.

Augustine is an assistant professor of theological ethics in Lee’s School of Religion. She earned her Doctorate of Theology (D.Th.) from the University of South Africa, her Master of Divinity (M.Div.) from the Church of God Theological Seminary, and her Master of Science (M.S.) and Bachelor of Science (B.S.) from the University of National and World Economy in Bulgaria.

Buck, an assistant professor of theatre, teaches classes in acting, directing, and dramatic literature. He directs many of the theatre productions at Lee, is the sponsor of Lee’s Improv team, Shenanigans, and serves on the board of Cleveland’s local theatre, the Ocoee Theatre Guild.

Hart, assistant professor of accounting, joined Lee’s faculty following a career as a CPA (Certified Public Accountant) in Atlanta, Georgia. She earned her Doctorate of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in accounting from Anderson University, a Master of Business Administration (MBA) in accounting from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga’s Graduate School of Business, and a B.S. in accounting from Lee University.

Johnson, assistant professor of humanities, earned his Ph.D. and Master of Arts (M.A.) degrees from the University of Colorado at Boulder. He specializes in Greek literature of the later Roman Empire, particularly in the areas of ethnic and religious identities and of Hellenism.

McCampbell, assistant professor of humanities, earned her Ph.D. and M.A. degrees from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, and a M.A. degree from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. She regularly teaches courses on postmodern theory and fiction, film and philosophy, popular culture, and modernism.

Mimbs, assistant professor of mathematics, earned her Ph.D. and M.S. in applied and computational mathematics from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and her B.S. from Lee University. She currently directs or codirects multiple grants involving undergraduate research and promoting the awareness of the beauty of mathematics among high school students.

Pope, assistant professor of political science, currently teaches courses in political theory and American constitutional law. He earned the Ph.D. and M.A. degrees from Baylor University. Pope’s research explores the relationship between political theory and practice, particularly with regard to social contract theory and American political institutions.

Proctor, assistant professor of New Testament, graduated from Baylor University with a Ph.D. in religious studies, where he studied under renowned Luke-Acts scholar Mikael Parsons. While Proctor specializes in synoptic Gospels research, he is also interested in Pauline studies and biblical languages.

Schrock, assistant professor of English, specializes in early British literature. He regularly teaches classes, such as Rhetoric and Research, Western Literature I: Ancient to Renaissance, Foundations of Literature in English, Senior Thesis, Chaucer, C.S. Lewis, and English in Christian Perspective.

Wielfaert, assistant professor of humanities, works on the cultural history of the Latin West in the early Middle Ages, with a particular focus on the literature of the Carolingian Renaissance. Wielfaert earned his Ph.D. in history and an M.A. in medieval studies from the University of Toronto and an M.A. in theology from Lee University.
GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

CHINA
STUDY, SERVICE, & SIGHTSEEING

BY LAURA MACGOWAN

What better way to gain a global perspective than spending seventeen days on the other side of the globe? Our seventeen-member team, led by Dr. Jerome and Vanessa Hammond and Dr. Delia Price, kicked off Lee University’s trip to China last summer with a week-long stay at a privately run foster home in a suburb of Beijing. This particular home houses around 60 children from birth to early elementary age, all of whom have some sort of significant medical need, often a mental disability or heart issue. This foster home not only loves and cares for these children, but also provides them with all the medical services they need.

Our twelve students, who represented a wide variety of majors (the trip is not sponsored through any one department, and it attracts students from all fields), had the chance to jump into the work and daily life of the orphanage: eating meals with the home’s staff, helping to create a new gallery space, and—of course—playing with and helping care for the children. We also spent a packed two days in Beijing visiting iconic sites like the Forbidden City and the Great Wall of China!

From Beijing, we took a bullet train to Henan Province, the location of our next stop: Sias International University. This university is only fifteen years old, but it is leading the way for private higher educational institutions in China who are breaking away from the traditional Chinese university system and implementing a more Western approach to the college experience. Lee and Sias University have a strong partnership, and frequently host each other’s students and professors for both short and extended stays.

During the week, we took classes at the university with both Chinese and American professors on a range of topics from Chinese history and religion to Chinese calligraphy. We also embarked on a few sightseeing daytrips to neighboring cities, where we visited a Buddhist monastery, ate a traditional lunch at a rural farmer’s house, and saw a more traditional Chinese university.
For many students, one highlight of our time at Sias was spending time with a group of Chinese students who helped host us. Getting to know these students and learning about their lives helped us to connect to the culture on a more personal level and imagine what our lives might be like if we were Chinese university students rather than American. This time in Henan province was especially great, because for much of it we were joined by some special guests—President and Mrs. Conn!

We spent our remaining few days in Shanghai, experiencing all the sights and sounds this bustling city has to offer. Our tour guide explained that if Beijing is the Washington D.C. of China, Shanghai is the New York—the financial and cultural capital. We loved seeing a bird’s eye view of the city from the 1,100-foot TV tower and shopping at a traditional market. We also took a boat tour of the city and visited a silk factory.

The China trip is just one of many trips that Lee offers over the summer, but it stands out from the rest because it isn’t just a sightseeing trip—though we did see some truly incredible sights. It isn’t just a study trip—though we did get plenty of classroom time, both in China and before the trip. And it isn’t just a service trip—though we did get twenty service hours for going. The China trip is unique, because it seamlessly integrates the three aspects, all within the context of a cross-cultural experience.

—Laura MacGowan is a senior English major from Northern Virginia.
In their first year of membership, Lee University received one of the NCAA’s most prestigious awards during the organization’s annual convention held recently in San Antonio, Texas.

President Conn was on center stage to accept the 2016 Award of Excellence. Twenty-one other NCAA Division II schools and three conferences were named as finalists two weeks earlier.

The Flames are in their first official year of membership in NCAA Division II and the Gulf South Conference, after going through a three-year transition period.

All the programs entering the competition held activities exemplifying the six Division II attributes: learning, balance, resourcefulness, sportsmanship, passion, and service.

The Lee athletic program will receive $1,500 and a nationally televised basketball game during the 2016–2017 season, plus travel expenses to the awards ceremony.

The centerpiece of Lee’s nomination was the women’s volleyball team and its annual Volley for a Cure event. The program has grown larger and has become more than a college volleyball match between college teams. The entire community is deeply involved. Starting in the fall of 2008, the first VFAC event raised $15,000 and has given over $130,000 since its inception.

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The goal has always been to raise awareness about breast cancer and to raise funds to support local families. The university joins hands with the Mary Ellen Locher Scholarship Foundation—a local organization that provides scholarships to children of breast cancer patients, both survivors and deceased.

Associate Athletic Director Andrea Hudson, who recently completed her twentieth year as Lee volleyball coach, said, “Winning this award just validates all of the hard work by so many in the community and at Lee. My dream, since I began working at Lee, was to find a way to get our university and the community engaged in an effort that would benefit someone in the area.”

Athletic Director Larry Carpenter said, “There were many outstanding nominations from long-time DII schools, and for Lee to win it early in its NCAA journey is an amazing feat. However, this award would not have been possible without the support of our administration and the hard work of Coach Hudson and her team, the Volley for a Cure Committee, the Lee University staff, and the community.”

President Conn, right, is joined at the podium by Lee Athletic Director Larry Carpenter and Associate Athletic Director Andrea Hudson.
Lee University will add women’s lacrosse as an intercollegiate sport, beginning play in the spring of 2017.

President Conn made the announcement in January and said the plan to add women’s lacrosse was ratified by the Lee University’s Board of Directors at its recent winter session.

“We’re eager to introduce this fast-growing sport to Lee University and the local community,” Conn stated. “We want Lee to be a magnet for female athletes. Lacrosse is a fast and exciting sport that young women in other parts of the country have loved for many years, and which is rapidly growing in the South.”

The introduction of lacrosse will mark the first totally new intercollegiate sport added at Lee in the past 19 years since baseball was resurrected in 1997.

“Before that, it seemed like we were adding a sport almost every year,” Conn added. “We did add track-and-field, but we saw that as an extension of our cross-country programs.”

The decision to add women’s lacrosse followed a recommendation by a feasibility study group, chaired by Associate Athletic Director Andrea Hudson during the past several months. Hudson’s ten-member group studied comparable teams in the region, the financial aspects of beginning a team, and the overall impact on the Lee athletic program.

In 2015, a group of female students requested approval from the university to begin a women’s lacrosse club program, modeled on the pattern of the popular and successful rugby clubs at Lee, which are not official NCAA teams, but which compete successfully with other college rugby clubs.

Lee will not be going into the lacrosse pool alone. A league within the Gulf South Conference (GSC) has been formed. Shorter University and Alabama Huntsville have teamed with Young Harris (Ga.) and the University of Montevallo (Ala.). Lee will enter as the fifth squad, while Valdosta State and Christian Brothers have shown an interest.

Conn pointed out that 52 high schools in Tennessee are currently playing women’s lacrosse and others are being added. He also noted that 108 Georgia high schools play the sport. NCAA Division II lists 100 women’s lacrosse teams and at least 13 more, including Lee, which are entering within the next two years.

Conn said he believes Lee will be an attractive option for high school lacrosse players in this region and from other states where Lee recruits many students. More than 150 high schools in Tennessee and Georgia sponsor girls’ lacrosse.

Lee University Athletic Director Larry Carpenter is in full support of bringing another program on board. “Women’s lacrosse is the up and coming sport, especially in the South. We want to be part of its growth. It is already established in the Northeast, so the recruiting pool is tremendous. We place a lot of emphasis on women’s sports at Lee, and we feel this is an opportunity to add another competitive team for our students and community to enjoy. We are excited to begin this process and look forward to our first lacrosse game next spring.”

Conn has appointed a committee to begin searching for the first Lee University lacrosse coach. In looking toward the future, Conn said, “We are prepared for it to take a few years; but in time, we expect women’s lacrosse, like our other teams, will produce winners.”
SOFTBALL HAS MIX OF VETERANS AND NEWCOMERS

Mark Brew enters his tenth season as head coach of the Lee baseball program, and this year the Flames will be seeking to earn a spot in the Gulf South Conference and NCAA Division II South Region tournaments.

His Flames quickly gained the attention of preseason pollsters. They were ranked No. 25 in the Perfect Game National Poll and picked seventh in the preseason conference ranking, followed by tenth in the preseason regional (the most important poll).

“I think the wide range (in the polls) shows how competitive the Gulf South Conference and South Region are,” pointed out the Lee skipper. “There are literally six to eight teams that could win our conference.”

Lee will learn more about its chances in the GSC, starting with early road trips against Alabama Huntsville and Delta State University.

“Our offense leads the way with returning players. We will return six starters offensively and three more hitters who saw extensive time on the field last season,” explained Brew.

Like softball, Brew’s 2016 squad features a good mix of veterans and first-year players. They include position players Ben Holland, Chris Adams, Gage Carpenter, Art Vidrio and Geremy Walton. Pitchers feature Trenton Hill, Logan Campbell, Kyle Briner, and Justin Alleman.

Richie Goodenow is the team’s new pitching coach. Coach Drew French recently accepted a position as a minor league pitching coach for the Houston Astros’ organization.

The Lee softball team is off to a winning record in 2016, thanks to production from both veteran seniors and young freshmen.

Seniors Amanda Lynn and Lexie Dean have anchored the top of the lineup for the heavy hitting Lady Flames early in the season. Junior-transfer Courtney Crawford is patrolling center field for the Lady Flames, while Freshmen Hallie Davis and Stevie Baird are also providing immediate impact for Head Coach Emily Russell’s club.

Lee won its opening series against West Florida at Butler Field on February 12 and 13. The Lady Flames rallied back from a three-run deficit to beat the Argonauts 4–3 in game one. Lee jumped out early in game two and held off a late rally by the visitors to claim an 8–7 victory in the nightcap to clinch the series win. On February 13, the Lady Flames fell 6–3 in the finale with West Florida.

The league is sure to be a test from start to finish for Russell’s ladies. During the season, they will battle ranked teams Shorter, Valdosta State, and Alabama Huntsville. Other teams on the slate include Delta State, West Georgia, and North Alabama.

Tanner Moore has returned to Lee University as the assistant softball coach. Moore was an All-American baseball player for Lee in 2009–2010 and was inducted into the Lee Athletics Hall of Fame this past November.

Senior Amanda Lynn will be called on to field ground balls during the 2016 softball season.

BREW IN TENTH SEASON AS FLAMES HEAD COACH

Logan Campbell returns to throw strikes for the Flames.
PEREZ NAMED ALL-AMERICAN

The National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) has named Lee's David Perez as an All-American.

Perez, the 2015 Gulf South Conference (GSC) Player of the Year, led the conference in scoring with 17 goals and 39 points this season. He is the first men's soccer player to garner NCAA Division II All-America honors in Lee's program history.

"I'm really happy and proud of David to be recognized as an All-American," said Lee Head Coach Paul Furey. "He's worked hard at it and is certainly a worthy selection. I'm delighted to have him around for another year."

All-Americans and their accomplishments were celebrated and recognized at the NSCAA All-America Luncheon held during the 2016 NSCAA Convention in Baltimore on Saturday, Jan. 16, starting at noon.

Earlier Perez was selected as a first-team member of the NSCAA All-South Region team. He was joined on the second team by Lee goalkeeper, Tom Halsall, and on the third squad by Jonathan Finlay and Gabe Franco.

INDOOR TRACK TEAM QUALIFIES FOR NATIONALS

With its first full indoor season of official NCAA Division II participation nearly completed, the Lee University track and field teams have attained provisional qualification for the national championships in six events.

Josiah Brooks has met the provisional standard in three events: 200-meter dash, 400-meter run, and triple jump. His time of 21.63 in the 200-meter is currently the nineteenth fastest. His 400-meter mark (48.72) is ranked No. 36. At the KMS Invitational, he recorded a distance of 14.31 meters (55th).

Adrian Martin exceeded the provisional mark in the 60-meter and 200-meter dashes. Martin's time of 7.72 in the 60-meter dash is ranked No. 44. The junior posted a 200-meter time of 24.83 (28th) at the Samford Open.

The final event is the men's distance medley relay. The team of Harold Smith, Justin Brooks, Terris Elliott, and Seth Eagleson sit in thirty-seventh, with a time of 10:05.85 from the UCS Invitational.

The NCAA Division II Indoor Track and Field Championships will be held in March in Pittsburg, Kansas.

Josiah Brooks displays his form for the Lee men's indoor track team.
LADY FLAMES EARN TOURNAMENT BERTH

In their first year as official members of the Gulf South Conference (GSC) and NCAA Division II, the Lee women’s basketball team has become one of the eight teams to earn a berth in the GSC tournament.

Going into final regular season games with non-conference foe Hiwassee College and then concluding the regular-season by falling to rival Shorter University. The Lady Flames are 19-8 overall and 15-7 in the rugged GSC standings. In March, the Lady Flames made their first appearance in the Gulf South Conference Tournament, traveling to Pensacola, Fla. to face the University of West Florida. Following a win there, the Lady Flames went to Samford University in Birmingham where they were defeated by Union University in the semi-finals.

It has been a year that has seen Coach Marty Rowe’s team drop three of their six defeats by a margin of seven points, and one of those came in overtime.

Paced by the scoring of sophomore Erin Walsh and the magic of point guard Haris Price, Lee has given its fans more than a fair share of excitement, including a buzzer-beating shot by Price in an thrilling 54–53 win at Delta State.

Walsh and Price have gotten plenty of help from the likes of senior Christina Johnson, sophomore Carrie Cheeks, and sophomore Shelby Brown. A pair of freshman—Anna Woodford and Tori Lentz—has given Rowe’s unit plenty of good minutes as well.

Seniors Kayla Beavers and Jordan Neuharth will long be remembered, along with junior Caroline Smith, who suffered knee injuries that cut her career short. All three joined with Johnson in being honored on Senior Night, celebrated on Feb. 23 against Hiwassee.
SEARCH UNDERWAY FOR NEW HEAD BASKETBALL COACH

The Tommy Brown era of Lee University basketball came to an end on February 27, after 11 years, when school officials announced a search committee is being formed to seek his successor.

Brown took the helm at Lee in 2005 and led his team to numerous winning seasons in the NAIA, before faltering in three years of competition in NCAA Division II and the Gulf South Conference (GSC).

"I have great appreciation for Coach Brown's terrific work ethic and desire to win," said Lee president Dr. Paul Conn in making the announcement. "He has led us to many wonderful successes during his years as head coach, and we are grateful for his contributions to our program. But after three years of NCAA competition, we believe the challenges of this level require a fresh start with new leadership."

Since joining the GSC, Brown and the Flames are 23-41 and failed to make the conference tournament (top eight teams qualify) in its first official year as members of the 12-team league. Brown leaves Lee with an overall record of 244-108.

"Coach Brown came on the scene and made an immediate impact on our basketball program," said Lee athletic director Larry Carpenter. "He consistently took our teams to Kansas City for the NAIA National Tournament (eight consecutive trips), twice finishing in the Elite 8. He won 20-plus games in each of the years we were in the NAIA including two 30 plus seasons. He was a tireless worker and student of the game. I appreciate all that he did for our program and wish him nothing but the best."

Brown released a statement saying, "I want to thank so many great people that I've gotten to know over the past 11 years...I especially want to thank my former players and assistant coaches that have made so much success possible and I will forever cherish the relationships we've made."

"Thanks to the community; this city has been a great place for my children to grow up and I have been privileged to call Cleveland home for myself and my family...I can't overstate how thankful I am to all the great people I've been able to get to know over the past 11 years as the head men's basketball coach at Lee University."

The search for the eighth head coach in the history of Lee University men's basketball is underway.

As for the 2015-2016 season, after dropping nine of their first 12 games, the Lee Flames basketball team rallied to win six of their next 11 games against rugged Gulf South Conference (GSC) competition. Three of those losses were by a total of seven points and two heartbreaking defeats came on three-point shots just before the final buzzer sounded.

The never-say-die group of Flames were led by the inside play of junior Keevin Tyus who shot 63 percent from the field, leaving him ranked No. 7 nationally in field goal percentage.

Tommy Brown
Lee students perform "The Veil: Redemption of Creation" in Conn Center on February 5, 2016
ANNUAL ALUMNI FUND BREAKS RECORD: $400,000+

Thank you for supporting Lee University in 2015. Last year alumni donations strengthened almost every area of the university including student scholarships, academic programming, faculty development, campus development, and athletics. Together we advanced in our mission to make Lee a leading Christ-centered university.

In the Annual Alumni Fund we also reached the major milestone of $400,000. If you’re near an alumnus right now, give them a high-five. That is an achievement worth celebrating. Thank you to all of the alumni who are coming to see the Alumni Fund as a way to give back to your alma mater.

As an expression of gratitude, below are listed the names of alumni who gave financially in 2015. On behalf of a grateful university, thank you. Although it would be impossible to fully list those alumni who support Lee in many other important ways, we thank you for your support and recognize the important role you play in strengthening Lee University.
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Lee University Online and the College of Arts and Sciences recently announced two new graduate programs will be offered fully online by summer 2016: the Master of Business Administration (MBA) and the Master of Science in Marriage and Family Studies.

“Having a graduate degree is becoming a far more attractive option for enhancing the résumé than it once was,” Dr. Matthew Melton, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said. “Lee [University] graduate programs are unique because Lee is unique. We are finding ways to translate the blends of core commitments on our traditional campus to our virtual campus as well.”

The MBA program, piloted online in fall 2015, was the first non-ministry graduate degree offered online at Lee. According to Program Director Dr. Shane Griffith, the move online just made sense to “expand our geographic reach.”

“We knew there were many people who would be interested in an MBA from Lee University who could not attend classes on [campus],” Griffith said. “Since nearly all of our students are working full-time while they pursue their degree, the online delivery format offers an opportunity for students to work toward their degree at times convenient for them whether at night, on the weekends, or during lunch.”

For Griffith, it is this mix of both faculty and materials that helps make this program unique in the marketplace. “The Lee University MBA is designed to teach students how to deliver long-term value to their organizations. This is more than just maximizing profits – it is about doing what is right and leading during difficult and turbulent times,” Griffith said. “Our focus on experiential learning ensures that students learn how to apply theoretical concepts in practice.”

The MS in Marriage and Family Studies will become Lee’s newest online offering. This program is designed for students looking for a career in family resource agencies, ministerial family outreach programs or to go on to pursue doctoral work in the field. The focus of this degree, according to Program Director Dr. Susan Alford, is on the “significance of covenant relationships and family.” While she is quick to point out that this is not a ministry degree, it is committed to the science of family studies. “Our goal is to teach principles, theory, and skills to help maintain and strengthen the home as the most effective institution in society for impacting the well-being of the family unit.”

For more information, email dal@leeuniversity.edu.
Who's Where?

1960s–1970s

Ron Hurst ’64, a resident of Cleveland, Tenn., passed away on February 12, 2016. He was 74. During his professional career, he served as a teacher at Bradley Central High School in Cleveland and later as a counselor for the Tennessee Department of Vocational Rehabilitation. Following his disability retirement, he worked as a volunteer tax preparation specialist for local groups. He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Beth Newport Hurst; their daughter, Christa Hurst Ondrovich ’98, her husband Chris Ondrovich ’01, and two grandchildren.

Randolph Dillingham ’70 is married to Dianne Channel, and they live in Enoree, S.C. They have one grown daughter and three grandchildren. Randolph is a school administrator in Anderson, S.C. He holds a M.Ed. degree from Clemson University and an Ed.S. from The Citadel. They are members of First Baptist Church in Spartanburg, S.C.

Judy Pittman Biebel ’74 lives in Fairfield Glade, Tenn. with her husband, Paul. Judy is retired as chief judge in the state of Florida. They have two grown children.

Kim Sibrik Gordon ’74 is retired and living in Sevierville, Tenn. with her husband, John.

1980s

J.T. ’80 and Linda Langley Willoughby ’80 are living in Cartersville, Ga. Since graduation from Lee, they have been involved in ministry, education, and banking. They have two sons, Daniel, a youth pastor, and Michael, a freshman at Lee.

Bill ’81 and Twyla Daugherty Green ’82 have two children and live in Cleveland, Tenn., where Bill is chairman of the School of Music at Lee and Twyla is a staff nurse at Erlanger East NICU in Chattanooga.

Stan E. Green ’82, of Cleveland, Tenn., died on January 3, 2015. In addition to his bachelor’s degree in secondary education and the social sciences from Lee, he continued his education at Lee earning a master’s degree in education (2001) and the Education Specialist Degree in educational leadership/administration in 2009. Stan was employed with the Bradley County School System for 30+ years, working at Bradley Junior High School (now Ocoee Middle School) where he taught world geography, Tennessee history, American history, world history, and general science.

Monika Humsjo Maresca ’82 is living in Wheatly Heights, N.Y. where she worked as a professional actor. She recently testified of the Lord’s protection of her son in a car accident. “Nothing but a miracle explains how he survived.” Monika said about her time at Lee: “It was, beyond wonderful. I was involved in serving the community through Ladies of Lee and DZT.”

Dannie ’85 and Precious Lee Williams ’84 both graduated from Lee with B.S. degrees and married in 1984. Dannie worked for the IRS for years and Precious worked in banking for many years. Both have doctorate degrees from Jacksonville Theological Seminary. Last year they celebrated 25 years as senior pastors of Citadel of Hope Ministries in Leesburg, Fla. They have two daughters.
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Send us a photo, too!

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Who’s Where?

La-Juan Stout ’93 married Brannon Bradford on March 14, 2015, and they live in Cleveland, Tenn. where La-Juan is the director of Academic Support at Lee University. Her husband is executive pastor at Christ Fellowship Church of God in Hartselle, Ala.

Jennifer Love ’94 lives in Charlotte, N.C. where she has worked in and around IT projects for more than 20 years as project manager, communications manager, recruiter, business analyst, and strategist. She now holds the position of offerings incubator for CGI Federal’s Momentum Enterprise Suite and associated products. Jennifer says, “I’m blessed with getting to work with over 160 different federal agencies, including the Department of State, Department of Justice, and Treasury Services. All these things sound great; however, Mom is my No. 1 title!”

Tricia Loftis Gleason ’95 lives in Terre Haute, Ind., with her husband Brett and their four children. After staying home with her children for ten years, Tricia went back to teaching part time. She is currently teaching sixth-grade science, working at the church as a Joy Belles coordinator. Tricia says, “My experiences at Lee taught me what habits add to your community in everyday life. My memories and experiences working with the Big Pal Program imprinted my heart and mind for life.”

Chris Paul ’97 and his wife, Kelly, live in Rome, Ga. where he is an anesthesiologist.

1990s

Ami Robinson Steele ’93 has been with the Mercer University Physician Assistant Program for seven years, the last four as clinical coordinator for students as they experience their clinical rotations, and as the chair of Admissions for the last two years. Amy says, “The wonderful education I received at Lee has afforded me many wonderful experiences, but the focus on Christ and continued spiritual development as a Lee student has been the foundation on which all my professional and personal achievements are built.” She is married to Jeff Steele, and they have three children.
MORE THAN 70 YEARS AGO, 21-year-old Private First Class Joseph K. Barrineau '52 was wounded fighting in Operation Cobra, taking Normandy back from the Germans in World War II. He was wounded on July 30, 1944, during "The Second Wave" of soldiers that landed at the beach that day. Almost 60 years later, as a present for his 80th birthday, Barrineau's children took him back to Normandy to visit the battleground where he lost so many brothers in arms.

Barrineau's son Van has heard the story of how his father was injured and of the machine gun round that pierced his helmet, but spared his head. Van explained: "Every acre had a hedgerow around it, so they fought from hedgerow to hedgerow, and that's where he got shot. He didn't know he got shot until later. When they got him to a medic, that's when they told him that he also had a bullet go through his helmet."

After his years in the service, Joseph K. Barrineau came home to Charleston, S.C. and met and married his wife, Edna '52. Three weeks later they headed to Cleveland for Lee, where Joseph graduated in 1952. After leaving Lee, the Barrineaus pastored for 42 years in Kentucky. Through the years the helmet stayed safe and preserved with the family.

With six children, five of them sons, Edna was uncertain what to do with the helmet after her husband's death in 2011. "With the five boys, it's hard to make that decision, because I imagine all of them would have wanted it," she said. "None of them ever pressured me, but I knew how they felt about their daddy's helmet—or, for that matter, anything about their dad. They loved him."

Recently, the Barrineau family traveled to New Orleans to see their father's helmet unveiled to the public at the National World War II Museum there. The museum was thrilled with the helmet and called it extraordinarily well preserved. The museum was so dedicated to the preservation of the helmet that they built a special case to contain it—a case that cost several thousand dollars to build.

Ted Barrineau said the helmet is on loan from the family for the next year, and then they will make a decision whether to donate it permanently or not. "We most likely will," he said, "because we know that our generation and the generation after us will take care of it. After that, we have no guarantee of what will happen to it, so we know if it's at the museum it will be taken care of."

Majority of this feature gleaned from an article in the Corbin Times-Tribune, Corbin, KY. By Christina Bentley.
As a young boy growing up in Mineral Wells, Texas, Taylor Albin '09 always dreamed of being a circus clown. He recalls attending annual performances of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey® with his family, and with each visit, he developed a passion to be a clown. As a young child, Taylor would constantly watch the Ringling Bros.® video “B A Clown” and aspired to be one of the greats with The Greatest Show on Earth®.

After graduating from Lee with a degree in business administration, Taylor got his big break in April 2009 when he heard about the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Clown College® auditions at Madison Square Garden in New York City. After a meticulous audition and screening process, Taylor was one of few to be considered for a possible clowning career with the show.

Nearly a year later, Taylor received a long-awaited phone call to join Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey® Presents BARNUM 200®.

“What I enjoy most about being part of Ringling Bros. is that I have the honor and
privilege to see kids happy and vibrant, and for their parents to be right in the moment with them," Taylor explains. "There's something magical about seeing a family forgetting their worries and just having fun!"

Currently, Taylor is the “Boss Clown” on Ringling’s Red Unit (one of two traveling productions). For the past year, Taylor has worked in partnership with the circus creative team to develop a unique blend of traditional looks and acts with a modern take that reflects the fast, high-paced energy for a new production—Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Presents Circus XTREME. "Here at the Greatest Show on Earth, we take our silliness seriously!" Taylor quipped. "I work with 12 of the funniest people on earth, and that can often get a little crazy. Ultimately, my job is to make sure we're making our show cues, we look good, and I am the primary liaison between show management/support and the performer. At the end of the day, you have to make sure you're having fun too."

When asked about his time at Lee, Taylor said, "Attending Lee University was monumental for me. My incredible professors and the life training that was instilled in me have, and forever will, guide my decisions and actions in business and life. The amazing friendships I have been blessed with continue to grow, and it really is amazing touring across the country and seeing where everyone has ended up. These things, among so many more, have garnered a core, Christ-centered belief, that through Him all things are possible ... Even running away to join the circus!"

Michael Richardson '97 was recently chosen as the new police chief for the Thomaston, Georgia Police Department. Michael was a lieutenant with the Griffin (Ga.) Police Department since 1998 and supervised the Criminal Investigation Division. He holds a master's degree in public administration from Columbus State University.

2000s

Melissa Land ’02 lives in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. where she is the owner of Going Places Speech Therapy. She holds a master’s degree in speech pathology from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville.

Matt ’03 and Melissa Rodante ’03 are missionaries in Maun, Botswana. They have three children.

Bill Isaacs ’07 lives in Lagrange, Ohio, with his wife, Shelly. He is the director of the Center for Pastoral Excellence.

Michelle Hecker Davis ’07 is executive director of a one-on-one personal brain training center called LearningRx in Chattanooga, Tenn. The organization specializes in training cognitive skills, such as attention, memory, processing speed, auditory and visual processing, and logic and reasoning, to enable easier and faster learning for clients of all ages. She employs several Lee alums and include (l-r) Dayla Cole (Lee senior), Katie Clem ’14, Jason Russell ’98, Michelle Hecker Davis ’07, Joshua Davis ’12, and Hannah Boler ’14.

Ben ’08, ’10M and Rachael Pinkham Pelton ’09, ’11M, recently moved back to Norridgewock, Maine, to be close to family. Rachael is working as a school counselor at Gardiner Area High School, serving grades 9–12. Ben is working at Community Health Counseling Services as a social worker for foster care children.
WHO’S WHERE?

Jordan Duke ’10 holds an MFA in producing for Film and Video at Columbia College Chicago. He is working 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. The company uses 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.

Rahel Redwine ’10 and her husband, John Mark, live in Asheville, N.C. where they have launched The Gathering Church.

Cornelius ’11 and Juanesha Summers Greenhill ’11 live in Murfreesboro, Tenn. They met when Cornelius auditioned for EVS in 2008 and were married on campus November 29, 2014.

Wiley ’11 and Courtney Brakebill ’12 live in Loudon, Tenn. where Wiley is in his fourth year of teaching and coaching at Loudon High School. Courtney is a stay-at-home mother with their daughter.

John ’12M and Leia Duncan ’05M live in Waco, Texas, where John is pursuing a Ph.D. in New Testament at Baylor University. He successfully passed his preliminary examinations in spring 2015 and is preparing to write a dissertation on rhetorical strategies of the speeches in Acts. He has recently published peer-reviewed articles in Perspectives in Religious Studies and New Testament Studies.

Brandon Lancaster ’12 lives in Nashville, Tenn. where he is a member of the band LANco. Last fall, the band was signed by the Sony Music Nashville record label, a company with such clients as Garth Brooks, Kenny Chesney, and Carrie Underwood.

Elvis ’12 and Isabel Sanchez ’14 live in Racine, Wis., with their three children where Isabel teaches bilingual special education and Elvis is a teacher and author of Salsa Dancing in Gym Shoes: Exploring Cross-Cultural Missteps with Latinos in the Classroom. The book takes a close look at the cultural missteps increasingly preventing Latinos from succeeding in education and offers steps that teachers can take to reverse this harmful pattern. The book is available on Amazon.

Lindsey Shewbridge ’13, ’15M is a music teacher at Big Ridge Elementary in Hixson, Tenn.

Matthew ’14 and Kristen Turvin ’14 are on the missions field for a year with the program “The World Race.” They will be ministering in Serbia, Albania, Macedonia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Japan, the Philippines, Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Alex Waters ’15 is working toward her master’s degree in English and in comparative literature at York University in Toronto. Alex says, “My time at Lee was the best four years of my life thus far. (People) who poured into my life helped me evolve into who I am today.”

CORRECTION:
In the winter 2015 issue of Torch it was incorrectly reported that Mary Margaret Morris was the founding director of the Ladies of Lee. The actual founder was Mary Smith Morris, who was a music instructor at Lee from 1962–1968 and again from 1991–1992. Mary Smith Morris has also served as an assistant professor of music at the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore in Princess Anne, Maryland, where she and her husband, Phillip, started and pastored the Walker Memorial Church of God from 1969–1982.

The Torch was recently carried to Park View Elementary School in Cleveland, Tenn. where teachers and student teachers from Lee participated in an Alumni Day. Top Row: Candice LeCroy Atha ’03, Jodie Baldwin Grannan ’95, Lauren Cranfill Suits ’14, Brook Plank ’08, Courtney Buck Fowler ’12, Kelly Shadrick Fox ’01, Shannon Ellison Pike ’06, Abby Boltnew ’16, Amber Boyd ’16, Martha Karel ’16. Bottom Row: Michelle Silver Morgan ’96, Whitney Rayborn Rievely ’09, Summer Smith ’12, Taylor Lambert ’15, Buffy King Frazier ’01, Jordan Padilla ’16, and Jennifer Caywood Fansler ’13.
Hi, sweetie. How are classes going? :)

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Think I can come back to Lee next semester? I understand if I can’t.

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