THIS ISSUE:

4
POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCES THROUGH A GRADUATE
A graduating senior expresses her emotions over capping her Lee University career during spring 2016 commencement weekend.
by Karen Chambliss

8
AWARDS ALL AROUND
Conclusion of the spring semester brings lots of awards for both students and faculty. View a complete list of the awards given to those where honor is due.

LEE DAY GETS UPGRADED
A staple of the Lee recruitment strategy for over 50 years, Lee Day hasn’t changed drastically over the years. But VP for Enrollment Phil Cook gives a different perspective.
by Phil Cook

22
A PATH TO THE PRESIDENCY
Dr. Alisa White ’80 has been across the nation serving seven universities. From a Lee instructor to Austin Peay University president, read how her experience at Lee, both as student and a faculty member, influenced her leadership.
by Cameron Fisher

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES: DOUBLE FEATURE
With so many life-changing trips happening every summer, Torch needed a double feature to wrap up reports from trips taken in 2016 to the Holy Land and to the Land Down Under.

MEET THE COACHES
Two new coaches were introduced earlier this spring with the new basketball coach, Bubba Smith, and, for the first time ever, a lacrosse coach, Adilyn Wadley.
by George Starr

DEPARTMENTS
14 Campus News
31 Sports
37 Who's Where

OPENING THOUGHTS
from PRESIDENT PAUL CONN

"That’s my boy!"

Or perhaps, "that’s my girl!" It’s an exclamation which has been repeated millions of times, literally and otherwise, whenever proud parents point to the accomplishments of their children. Whether it’s a toddler taking first steps or a college graduate crossing a commencement stage, few things give a parent greater pleasure than the accomplishments of one’s child.

For those of you who are Lee alumni, we speak of this place as your “alma mater.” And, I must say, we really do feel like a parent toward you.

When you were here as a student on campus, we were focused on teaching and shaping you, as parents do with their growing young children. May-be sometimes we do that in a heavy-handed way; sometimes those of us at places like Lee tend to over control students’ lives, out of our parental impulse to guide your growth in positive directions.

But after our children are “out of the nest,” we love to see them fly! We understand that we, like all parents, must relinquish you to a future where we can only stand back and watch you develop, pray for you, cheer for you, and take pride in your accom-
plishments and your journey through whatever lies ahead for you.

The greatest reward of a life spent at Lee University, for me personally, is the pleasure of that pro-
cess. I have seen many Lee students become mature women and men whom I admire greatly. The things I love about you are not just your accomplishments, but your life choices. A Lee alum doesn’t have to win a Nobel Prize to make us all proud of you, back here at your college home. We take great pride in all the small things of value which you do, and the people you become. Many of you would be surprised, I think, at how closely we follow your lives, and how proud we are of you.

So stay in touch! Let us hear from you. Fire off an email to someone back on campus whom you still remember, and tell us what’s happening in your life. Send one of those “Who’s Where” emails to the Torch. Keep us up to date about where you are, what you’re doing—I can assure you that people around here will love to know.

When Lee alumni do something well or something worthy—and it happens constantly—I am somewhere smiling, saying, “That’s my girl! That’s my boy!”

Okay, that’s quite a paternalistic sentiment, and I realize it’s a little corny, but there it is. It’s what I think about at commencement time each year. You come to Lee and you go, but you don’t ever outgrow the pride we feel that we became part of your journey.
How does one look back and look ahead at the same time? This is the question I’ve been trying to answer over the last few months—my last months of being a student and of being at Lee. Since I’ve been a student for as long as I can remember, it’s been a pretty big deal to realize that part of my identity is now gone. Fortunately, because I chose a university that is intentional in its Christ-centered, caring attitude toward students, I was able to have very fitting and peace-giving closure to my 16-year career as a student, as well as my four-year stint at Lee. Over the last month, especially during graduation weekend, I was able to reflect on the incredible memories and relationships made at Lee, while looking to the future with peace and hope even in the unknown.

Graduation events started on Friday with Commissioning. I hadn’t realized how special it would be to have a Bible with my name engraved on it, personally signed by Dr. Conn, but once I received mine, I really felt its weight. Before reaching this moment, we all prayed, sang “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” (led by the very talented Brendan Cothran), and heard the winners of the university’s top student awards announced by Dr. Conn. Next, after hearing Ariana Kim, Ruth Okenye, Dylan Evans, Kendra Gray, Rachel Gaby, and Josh Leon share their versions of “The Lee University Experience,” I was able to reflect on my own Lee experience. I found pieces of my story in each of theirs, and I could feel the solidarity of the crowd as we collectively remembered our struggles, our joys, and the hard work that had brought us all here to graduation. I was floored as I looked around me and thought about the first time I had walked into the SMC freshman year to register for classes, all the memories made since then, and how this year I had been trying so desperately to soak in every single moment before it was all over.

Hearing Kendra’s story was especially impactful for me, as I have worked for her in the Public Relations Office at Lee for the last two years, and she has been one of the best parts of my Lee experience. I was glad to see her recognized, and that other people would be able to hear about her incredible perseverance and faith. She shared a bit of Philippians 1:6: “[I am] confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” This verse had encouraged her, and I know she encouraged many of us listening at Commissioning that night. She also ended with the point that it doesn’t matter what we do next, as long as we are being “filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God” (Philippians 1:11 NIV). That was a much-needed reminder to those in the crowd who may not know exactly what they’re doing next (like me). After Cameron Bible powerfully sang “The Lord’s Prayer,” everyone received their Bibles, and Emma Liem gave an eloquent closing prayer. Commissioning was over, and my graduation weekend was halfway complete.

Saturday’s Commencement began at 8:30 a.m. in the DeVos Rec Center,
where everyone was lined up in regalia again, talking and taking selfies and fixing each other’s hoods. We knew what to expect after practice and last night, but there was still a lot of nervous energy in the room. Like any Lee-sponsored event, Commencement started off with great music; we walked onto the SMC lawn to a processional similar to Commissioning, and then after Dr. Conn’s welcome, we all sang “To God Be the Glory,” and the Lee Singers performed “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God.” These hymns were so appropriate for a ceremony where it would be easy for me to focus on myself and my own achievements (which would then lead to possible doubts about whether I could continue to do well after graduation)—instead, I was reminded repeatedly that every part of my being at Lee was ultimately for God’s glory, and that as long as I kept that in mind, then everything in the future would be okay.

Hearing Dr. Nancy Hill’s address was probably one of the best parts of the entire graduation weekend. A professor of education at Harvard University’s Graduate School of Education, she delivered an address that was eloquent, thought-provoking, and inspiring. According to her bio, she is a developmental psychologist and researcher whose work identifies the unique and interactive ways in which race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status influence parenting beliefs, practices, and child outcomes. Dr. Conn introduced her as someone who is “among America’s leading voices in her field of developmental psychology. . . . She has created a reputation for superb teaching and incisive scholarship in her field.” He later added, “Among those professors I have known on that wonderful campus of talented, intellectual professionals, Dr. Hill stood out immediately. . . . She has become a friend who reminds me by her example of the power of a quiet Christian witness lived out with integrity and grace in a highly demanding, pluralistic environment.”

Dr. Hill began her speech by acknowledging the different struggles that all the graduates had faced during their time at Lee and the hard work that had brought us all to that moment. She also reminded us of the incredible gift of our education, as only 30 percent of Americans today have a four-year college degree. Her address discussed the importance of compassionately listening to other people’s stories, the power of finding your purpose with God, and the bridge-building impact of privileged opportunities. “Do not underestimate the power of stories, purpose, and privilege—they are reflected in the paths you have traveled and they are the compass of your future,” she concluded. After much applause, Dr. Debbie Murray started reading the names of Lee’s largest graduating class to date—more than 500 undergraduate and graduate students. After everyone received their diploma (no one tripped, as far as I could tell), sang the doxology, said the benediction for a tearful last time, and processed out, I focused on enjoying every moment that was left of being on campus surrounded by friends and family. It was a gorgeous day, full of blessing and celebration and promise.

Recently I remembered the slogan used on much of Lee’s promotional material: “Expect Something Great.” While at Lee, I encountered deeper relationships, more meaningful classes, and more eye-opening experiences than I could have ever expected, all because I was able to grow closer to a great God. And because of the foundation of faith-infused education I have received here, as I move away from Lee into a still-uncertain future, I can continue to expect great things.

Karen Chambless is from Kennesaw, Georgia, and received a degree in English with a minor in business administration at spring Commencement.
Kelsie Wymore

Kelsie Wymore received the 2016 Zeno C. Tharp Award, established in 1955 to recognize the Lee senior who shows the greatest promise of making a significant contribution to the church.

Wymore graduated summa cum laude in December 2015 with a 3.98 GPA with majors in biblical/theological studies and Spanish. She was a Karios Honors Scholar, as well as a Centennial Gold Scholar and a recipient of the 2013 Who’s Who Among All-American Scholar’s Award. While at Lee, she was a member of Sigma Delta Pi, the Spanish Honor Society, a Spanish lab instructor, a Greek language tutor, a member and later treasurer of ACTS World Vision, and a resident assistant and floor leader in Nora Chambers Hall.

In the community, Wymore worked with Big Pal Little Pal as secretary and chaplain, as an English as a Second Language tutor at Lee, she was a member of Sigma Delta Pi, the Spanish Honor Society, a Spanish lab instructor, a Greek language tutor, a member and later treasurer of ACTS World Vision, and a resident assistant and floor leader in Nora Chambers Hall.

Victor Ubiera

Victor Alex Ubiera was the recipient of the 2016 F.J. Lee Award, established in 1968 in honor of Lee’s second president. It is presented to a senior at Lee who has demonstrated high standards of integrity, leadership, service, broad campus involvement, and academic excellence. While at Lee, Ubiera has been a Karios scholar and involved in academic clubs Phi Eta Sigma, Pi Kappa Lambda, and the American Choral Director’s Association. He served in Crossover Ministries, Greek Day of Service, and local public school service projects around the community.

Ubiera was secretary and president of Tau Kappa Omega while acting as a Big Brother in Omega Alpha Phi. He worked on campus in residential life as a floor leader, resident assistant, resident chaplain, and then discipleship ministries coordinator. He also worked within Lee’s Spanish Department as a teacher’s assistant, writing-center tutor, and café host.

Ubiera graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in music education, and minors in Spanish, church music, and Bible.

Brett Buckner

Brett Buckner was named 2016 recipient of the Charles Paul Conn Award, given to a Lee senior who demonstrates the greatest promise of achievement in graduate or professional studies after graduating from Lee.

While at Lee, Buckner has excelled academically, achieving a 4.0 in mathematics while being a Karios Scholar and mentor for the iMass scholars in the Department of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. Buckner received a Center for Undergraduate Research in Mathematics scholarship and spent a year researching with Dr. Debra Mimb, an assistant professor of mathematics at Lee. This culminated in research presentations at multiple conferences. He also spent a summer in California researching at a National Science Foundation-funded research experience for undergraduates. He also won a national award from the Mathematical Association of America.

On campus, Buckner has participated in Big Pal Little Pal, Alpha Chi National Honor Society, and Mathematics Day for Underprivileged Students. He was also vice president of the Karios Scholars Honor Program and vice president of Kappa Mu Epsilon.

After being accepted into multiple graduate programs, Buckner will attend the doctorate program at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute this fall, where he has been offered full tuition and a stipend.
HELEN DEVOS COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
William Estes, Dean

HELEN DEVOS COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
William Estes, Dean

Bibbo Excellence in Student Teaching Awards (Spring 2015)
Elementary Education
Corey Bean
Elementary Education
Kellie Philippi
Middle Grades Education
Heather Talley
Music Education
Maria Shepherd
Secondary Education
Jordan Willcutt

Bibbo Excellence in Student Teaching Awards (Fall 2015)
Elementary Education
Caleb Shelton
Middle Grades Education
Haley Cuffman
Secondary Education
Ryan Hilber

Early Childhood, Elem. and Special Ed
Pamela Browning, Chair
Camellia Wilson
Jenna Burkert
Abigail Boltnew
Courtney Steinhauser

Youth Ministry     Joshua Derrick
Theology
Trinity Huhn
Greek Award
Drenda Butler
Zondervan Greek Award
Westley Lemke
Zondervan Hebrew Award
Ruth Vanderford
Zondervan Theology Award
Trinity Huhn

SCHOOL OF MUSIC
William Green, Dean

Bilbo Excellence in Student Teaching Awards (Fall 2015)
Elementary Education
Caleb Shelton
Middle Grades Education
Haley Cuffman
Secondary Education
Ryan Hilber

Early Childhood, Elem. and Special Ed
Pamela Browning, Chair
Camellia Wilson
Jenna Burkert
Abigail Boltnew
Courtney Steinhauser

Department of Music Education
Instrumental Music Education
Linda Thompson, Chair
Valerie Nuzzolo
Carly Wingfield

Vocal Music Education
Doug Warner, Chair
Wan Lin-Yu

Dept. of Music Perf. Studies
Phillip Thomas, Chair
Brendan Cotrhan
Lauren Hembree
Brooke Porritt

Outstanding Musical Performance

SCHOOL OF RELIGION
Christian Ministries
Mary Dukes
Discipleship Ministry
Mary Dukes
Intercultural Studies
Mary Dukes
Pastoral Ministry
Mary Dukes
Youth Ministry
Mary Dukes

Theology
Greek Award
Terry Cross, Dean
Hebrew Award
Thomas Doolittle, Chair
Zondervan Greek Award
Karissa Liebe
Zondervan Hebrew Award
Dana Fair
Zondervan Theology Award
Jade Giordano

DIVISION OF ADULT LEARNING
DAL Christian Ministry (Charlotte)
Joshua Black, Executive Director
Megan Baker
Kendra Gray
Barry Benson
Adam Herring, Faculty

DAL Liberal Studies

DAL Ministry Leadership

DAL Ministry Scholarship

For the past forty-four years, an anonymous panel of six faculty and students, from six different departments, has chosen the winner of the Excellence in Teaching Award. The winner of this award this year is Dr. Donna Summerlin, professor of English. Dr. Summerlin is a senior member of the Lee faculty, having served 28 years in the Department of Language and Literature. She came to Lee University with a Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee in 1988, and has become a fixture in the College of Arts and Sciences, beloved by her students and offering steady informal leadership in one of the university's largest departments.

Dr. Summerlin quite literally taught many of the parents of the students she is teaching today, and the remarkable thing about her is that her teaching has remained fresh and newly creative year after year. Her department chair wrote the following about Dr. Summerlin: "To me, the most impressive thing about Donna is that she is absolutely at the top of her game. I have been her chair for nineteen years, and I can say that never has she been better."

This year's award winner is Dr. Daniela Augustine, associate professor of Theological Ethics. Dr. Augustine joined Lee seven years ago from the Czech Republic, and in that short time has made a profound impact, not only on her department but also on the visibility and relevance of theological study across the Lee campus. She has remained intensely and prolifically involved in her own research, has produced a steady stream of articles and publications, has maintained active contact with her theological peers in Eastern Europe, and has served as a member of the Center for Theological Inquiry at Princeton University.

Dr. Augustine will be leaving campus this summer to spend a sabbatical year at the University of Heidelberg in Germany, continuing her work on Sacramental Theology.

The Faculty Award for Excellence in Advising is given to a recipient whose scores on student advising evaluations, along with the judgment of academic administrators, earns special recognition for this important part of the faculty role. This year's award winner was a unanimous choice of the selection committee. She is Mary Dukes, senior lecturer in the Department of Communication. She came to Lee after graduate work at the University of Southern Mississippi, and teaches and advises in the newly emerging field of Digital Media Studies. Mary was cited by the Academic Services staff as a faculty member who has built a reputation as one of Lee's most outstanding performers in all the multiples areas of student interaction. “She is an exemplary model,” they say, “of the positive impact that good advising has on students.” Her chair says that she is willing to advise anyone we send her way, even though her overall advising load is higher than almost any other faculty advisor on campus.
Lee University presented the 2016 Charles W. Conn (CWC) Awards to students Michael Allen and Shawna Wood, and Dr. Arlie Tagayuna during Lee’s chapel service in April. Rising seniors Allen and Wood were awarded the CWC Servant Leadership Award for demonstrating leadership in service and ministry in the Lee community. Tagayuna was the recipient of the CWC Service Learning Faculty Award presented to a faculty member recognized for commitment to service-learning on campus and in personal service to the community.

The annual awards are in honor of Dr. Charles W. Conn, president of Lee from 1970–1982. Conn was known for his spirit of servant leadership during his presidency at Lee and is the only President Emeritus in the Lee family.

Allen has served in a variety of roles on Lee’s campus, including resident chaplain for Medlin Hall, LEAP (Learn, Engage, and Achieve Project) peer mentor, regular volunteer in Crossover Ministries, teaching assistant for the Thai Language and Culture class, club president for Missions Alive, peer advisor, and a member of Convergence, Mu Kappa, and Voices of Lee. Wood has operated in a number of key roles for Lee, including student worker for the nursing program, Gateway peer leader, resident assistant for Lee’s Summer Honors program, and community service secretary for the Student Leadership Council. According to Jill Welborn, director of student development, Wood serves consistently and helps to create opportunities for others to serve. She is dedicated to serving the disenfranchised in the local community as a lifestyle.

Tagayuna is an assistant professor of sociology at Lee. He has developed outreach to the College Hill community in Cleveland, helps his students write grants for local nonprofit organizations, and works with his students to conduct community-based action research for these organizations. Recently, he and his students raised over $11,000 to help provide sustainable lighting in an East Cleveland Park by hosting a 5K evening glow fun run called “Light Up the City Project.”

Allen and Wood are the twelfth group of students to receive this award, while Tagayuna is the eighth faculty member to be honored.

**Laura Singletary**

Dr. Laura Singletary, assistant professor of mathematics, has been named the winner of the 2016 Janet Rahamut Award. The Rahamut Award is given in recognition to the faculty member that exhibits the most heart for students evidenced by frequent interaction and positive involvement with them outside of the classroom. The award is named in memory of Dr. Janet Rahamut, a veteran English professor whose tragic death in 2000 shocked the campus and left a tremendous void in the collective heart of the Lee family.

Lee University hosted its annual Kay McDaniel Summer Tennis Clinic at Lee’s tennis courts June 6–10, 2016. This summer marked the 25th anniversary of the clinics where participants have the opportunity to learn from former world-ranked professional tennis player and camp director, Kay McDaniel, and her staff of instructors.

“Each year over 40 devoted instructors help to put on a spectacular time for these kids. Our main goal is to serve not only tennis, but also the love of God to every child,” said McDaniel.

“Not only do these kids learn to play a sport that can last a lifetime, but they also learn that God’s love lasts longer than a lifetime. The kids have so much fun that they never want the clinics to end.”

The clinics, staged separately for boys and girls, have always been free. Ages for participants range from 6–13 and all skill levels are accepted, especially beginners. Prizes such as tennis grips, sweatbands, tennis visors, water bottles, T-shirts, and other items are given during the week. On the last day, an awards event takes place where four prizes are given to participants.

Another unique feature about McDaniel’s clinics is that children who have participated in the clinics can still be involved as a junior instructor after turning 14.

“It delights me that so many kids had such wonderful experiences that they eagerly desire to give back to the game by offering their time and talents to younger kids,” McDaniel continued. “They do a phenomenal job! Many of these kids become Lee students because of their experiences in these clinics.”

McDaniel shares inspiring stories of how she overcame difficult obstacles in sports and in life. From age 11, she dreamed of becoming a professional tennis player. Her first tennis racquet was bought with S&H Green Stamps, of which she collected over 10,000 stamps to obtain. Her mother sewed all her tennis clothes until age 15, when her achievements earned her top sponsors such as Fila, Adidas, Tail, and Nike that lasted throughout her career. McDaniel went on to realize her dreams by competing at tennis Grand Slams for six years against legendary players, including Billie Jean King, Martina Navratilova, Chris Evert, and Steffi Graf. She rose to the top 35 in the world in singles and held a #2 world ranking in doubles.

McDaniel, an assistant professor at Lee in the Department of Health and Exercise Science and Secondary Education, hopes to inspire all kids to dream big and dare to believe they can reach them despite the obstacles. Her tennis clinics receive rave reviews from parents and kids alike. Last year over 25 cities were represented in the clinics.

“All four of my kids count down the days every year for Ms. Kay’s clinics,” said one participant’s parent. “She inspires them to want to be better players and people. Her energy and enthusiasm is infectious. She and her team are patient and kind to all the kids. Her stories are legendary as well.”

Laura Singletary receives “Most Improved” award from McDaniel in 2015.
A Prayer for the New SCHOOL OF NURSING
By Dr. Sara Campbell, Dean, School of Nursing

While I have been actively engaged in the building as it rises from the dust, faculty and staff of the School of Nursing have had to patiently wait until the time was right for a tour. On their first visit, only the lower floors were accessible. It was fun watching the faculty and staff take delight in what they were seeing as they walked through those two floors. One faculty member found some wet concrete, and before long we were all gathered around it, placing thumbs in the wet mix along with initials, knowing that it would most likely be smoothed over or covered up. Even so, it was a moment of “tradition” and staking claim to our space. Everyone left that first tour invigorated and ready to finish the current semester.

The second tour allowed access to faculty offices and our prayer room on the third floor. During this tour, everyone was more interested in details. Where do we eat? Which office is mine? Where is the bathroom? People stood in doorways and pictures were snapped.

As I stood in my soon-to-be office and looked out at The Quad, I prayed:

Lord, you did not bring us this far, through so much, to let it end with this building. Thank You for Your continued blessings and favor on this school and everyone in it. May our graduates go into all the world, bringing extraordinary faith, power, strength, and healing in Your name.

That quiet moment became energized with blessings as everyone came walking through with laughter and anticipation of great things to come.
Lee Adds AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE MINOR

Lee University recently approved an American Sign Language (ASL) minor. While ASL classes have been offered for 20 years, a minor will be available for the first time beginning this fall.

Dr. LaJuan Bradford, director of academic support, has dreamed of creating the minor since she was a student at Lee.

"The idea of the minor was approved three years ago," Bradford said. "It took a couple of years to build up faculty to teach the classes, then another year or so to develop the syllabus."

Lee TAKES STEPS TOWARD DUAL DEGREE IN ENGINEERING

Lee University’s faculty recently voted to approve a new Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics with an emphasis in pre-engineering.

By Mitchell Capps, Lee Clarion

Blayne Carroll, professor of mathematics, said the new minor is part of a larger plan. "This is a major that is designed as an initial step," Carroll said. "We’re actually pursuing a dual degree engineering major with Tennessee Technological University located in Cookeville, Tennessee.

A pre-engineering major was created to provide a launching point for students interested in Tennessee Tech and Lee, they could then officially say we have a dual degree and they can transfer into that.

Carroll hopes to have the agreement in place in time for the upcoming academic year.

The decision to option a dual degree rather than provide the means for a full major at Lee is a strategic one. To house an engineering program is an expensive and complicated undertaking for a school Lee’s size and would require new laboratories, equipment, and robotics.

Carroll explained that while he believed Lee could succeed in such an operation, he feels that it is more important to continue to do well what Lee already does. "We prepare students to go out and get a degree in engineering," Carroll said. "This is going to be comparable to anything they’d get at Tennessee Tech or the University of Tennessee in their first few years."

For Carroll, the appeal for the dual degree is allowing students to take advantage of what makes a Lee education distinctive, including small classes, a supportive environment, and more opportunities to pursue an engineering degree.

Professor of chemistry John Hearn, who is participating in creating new classes for the potential major, said that it has been frequently requested by prospective students.

"There have been several students who have inquired about an engineering program who would like a degree like the one Lee gives where students get a more holistic education," Hearn said. With the dual degree, students could complete their general education core in three years and then move on to the partner school another two years in their particular discipline of engineering.

Professors like Carroll and Hearn in the Science and Math Department have proposed five new classes, which would be added to Lee’s coursework by the fall or spring of 2018. Carroll is excited to give prospective students an opportunity for both a Lee education and a top quality engineering degree.

"We were missing a significant population of people who wanted to be engineers, as well as that Lee distinctive," Carroll said. "Before this, they had to decide, and that’s a decision they shouldn’t have to make. By doing this, they can have the best of both worlds," Hearn said.

School of NURSING RECEIVES ACCREDITATION

Lee University School of Nursing has been extended full membership in the national accrediting body for nursing, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The action of the CCNE came during its annual Board of Commissioners meeting in May.

The action was effective immediately and extends to June 2021, according to a statement by Dr. Susan Ruppert, Chair of the Board of Commissioners of the CCNE.

"We are thrilled," stated Lee president Dr. Paul Conn. "Receiving this certificate of accreditation from the CCNE is a huge accomplishment for the entire administrative and faculty team. We could not have better news; it’s what we have worked toward and hoped for during these past three and a half years, and to now have our program officially certified in this way is a great step forward."
Boone Presents at Conference
CONTRIBUTES TO BOOK

Dr. Jerome Boone recently presented at the annual Society for Pentecostal Studies (SPS) Conference at Life Pacific College in San Dimas, California. The forty-fifth annual meeting was titled, "Worship, the Arts, and the Spirit." Boone presented "Pentecostal Worship and Hermeneutics: Engagement With the Spirit," a look at how corporate worship and personal study of Scripture are related.

In addition, Boone recently wrote a chapter in the newly published book, Toward a Pentecostal Theology of Worship. The book is made up of 15 chapters written by different authors addressing some aspect of the Bible’s focus on worship. Boone's chapter, titled, "Worship and the Torah," explores the topic of corporate worship in the Old Testament and applies the topic to worship in a twenty-first-century context.


---Rachel Wescott

Moe Named AAF EDUCATOR OF YEAR

Dr. Megan Moe, professor of communication, was recently named the American Advertising Federation District 7 (AAF D7) Educator of the Year, receiving the Donald G. Hileman Award. According to the AAF D7, the award recognizes a college educator for outstanding service to advertising, AAF District 7, his/her club or generation, and college advertising students through his/her volunteer efforts to the student advertising team, a student advertising club, and teaching of superior quality.

At Lee, Moe is the discipline coordinator for the communication program and oversees the advertising emphasis of the communication degree.

Augustine Receives RESEARCH GRANT

Associate Professor of theological ethics Dr. Daniela C. Augustine was awarded a Louisville Institute Grant. Called the Sabbatical Grant for Researchers, it assists the conducting of major academic research and writing projects that have the potential to contribute to the vitality of Christianity in North America.

"This is a well-known, high profile, very competitive grant, funded by the Lilly Endowment, Inc.,” said Augustine. "In view of the intense competition and high volume of applications by excellent scholars, I feel truly honored by the affirmation of the selection committee."

Augustine's research will contribute to the recent efforts of laying a foundation for Pentecostal ecclesiology—the theological study of the church. The project will focus on developing a constructive Pentecostal theology of the sacramental life and investigate potential insights offered by Eucharist-centered Orthodox ecclesiology to a Word-centered Pentecostal liturgy.

Augustine joined the Lee faculty in 2010.

Faculty PROMOTIONS

The following Lee University faculty were promoted in rank at the May meeting of the Board of Directors and announced by President Conn:

Promoted to Professor:
- Ron Brendel
- Skip Jenkins
- Patricia McClung
- Megan Moe
- Louis Morgan
- Jeff Sargent

Promoted to Associate Professor:
- Daniela Augustine
- Christopher Blake
- Aaron Johnson
- Mary McCampbell
- Debra Mimbs
- Thomas Pope
- Chad Schrock
- Jared Wieflaert

Promoted to Associate Lecturer:
- Amy Mercer
- Jorge Sandoval
- Dietle Ward

Promoted to Professor:
- Megan Moe
- Louis Morgan
- Jeff Sargent
FIFTY-NINE & COUNTING

Dr. Evaline Echols retires with the longest tenure in Lee history.

By Cameron Fisher

Evaline Gore Echols grew up in a pastor’s home in Alabama. It was a dream come true in 1957 when a teenaged Evaline received a call from Dr. R.L. Platt, president of Lee College, that she had been hired as his secretary/administrative assistant. She was beginning a 59-year journey through Lee College/University, where she would work as administrative assistant to three more presidents: Dr. Ray H. Hughes, (1960–1966; 1982–1984), Dr. James A. Cross (1966–1970), and Dr. Charles W. Conn (1970–1982). After 27 years as the school’s top aide to the president, her Lee journey would take her on an even longer tenure (32 years) on the faculty of the Department of Business.

While serving in the president’s office, Echols earned two degrees and taught part time for ten years, which would lead her to become chair and assistant professor of business in 1984. After serving as chair for 20 years, she turned over the reins in 2004 and has taught business communication and organizational behavior, and leadership courses for the past 12 years.

“My experience as administrative assistant prepared me well to teach the communication and leadership courses,” Echols commented. “Having worked with four presidents, all of whom had different leadership styles, taught me lessons I could have never learned in my classes at Lee, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, or Louisiana State University where I eventually earned a Ph.D. in business education.”

She spoke highly of the 1970–1982 term of Dr. Charles W. Conn, who wrote eight books during his tenure as president.

“Observing his writing, rewriting, editing, and proof-reading skills—also having typed all those books on a typewriter—was like taking advanced courses in journalism and writing,” she said. In addition, having the opportunity to serve for outstanding ministers, such as Dr. Cross, Dr. Hughes, and Dr. Conn, made an indelible impression on her life spiritually, as well as academically. Typing sermons, Sunday school lessons, and books was like adding courses in Bible and theology to my transcript.”

In mid-career, Dr. Echols pursued a Ph.D. in vocational education and completed the degree while serving as department chair. In addition to her classroom teaching, she is an author, and a frequent presenter at conferences, including the Association of Business Communications, which is the top conference in her discipline.

“Dr. Echols leaves her fingerprint permanently on the University, the Department of Business, countless students’ lives, departmental faculty, and me,” said Dr. Dewayne Thompson, current chair of the Department of Business. Evaline Echols’ legacy is a culture of improvement and confidence in the future.” Echols encouraged membership in the Accreditation Council of Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) and organized departmental retreats where the faculty sought new ideas and courses that should be offered, new majors, and new programs.

Thompson credited Dr. Echols with creating a classroom environment where students were free to speak and express their concerns. She loved her students and developed relationships with them; they knew she cared for them.

Former student Chad Carter ’91 said, “Thank you, Dr. Echols for being such an intentional communicator and for giving your life away one day at a time to teach someone like me how to relate and connect and communicate. The deposits you made into me gave me a meaningful advantage in the workplace and in life. I personally appreciate how you loved each one of us with sincerity of heart as you taught us.”

Dr. Echols’ two children, Eddie Echols ’81 and Sharon Priest ’87, are alumni of Lee, as are two of her eight grandchildren. Her grandson, Darren Echols, currently serves as director of Admissions at Lee. She also has two great-grandchildren.

Echols will continue as a senior adjunct professor teaching business communication and has also been named Professor Emeritus, a prestigious title reserved for a scarce few of Lee’s faculty.

Upon reflecting on retirement from full-time teaching, Echols said, “Just as God has directed my steps for the past 59 years, I know He will lead me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake. I know He will lead me gently into retirement, this new season in my life.”
Lee Day 2016: THE SAME, ONLY BETTER!

BY PHIL COOK

Since the early 1960s, Lee Day has been the most successful recruitment event on the Lee University campus, and 2016 was no exception. In fact, it was a record-breaking year! The number of prospective students and families who were on campus in April was the highest total we have on record.

Yet something about this year was different. The customary enthusiasm, energy, and excitement of Lee Day were all at another level. It was palpable. What set this particular Lee Day apart were the new ideas—or new interpretations of old ideas—which infused the weekend with a new momentum as we now head toward fall 2016.

The worship rally with President Conn has been part of Lee Day for decades, but it has always taken place at the end of the day on Saturday. This year, Lee Day began with the rally on Friday night, and it was outstanding. Guests were able to experience a worship service, which included performances by the Chapel Band, Voices of Lee, and a challenging message from Dr. Conn.

Chapel is an indelible element of the Lee University experience. It is in our DNA. There was no better way to introduce prospective students to a Lee chapel experience than with the worship rally.

In today’s digital world, social media has become the most important marketing tool for any organization. Lee University, and in this particular case, Lee Day, was no different. Lee partnered with Lee alum, Clark Campbell, and his company, Social Lion, to provide event amplification for Lee Day. It was an opportunity to expand the reach of Lee Day beyond our physical borders to those who were not in attendance, and it was a resounding success. #LeeDay was everywhere on social media. In fact, it was trending nationally on Instagram for a few hours on April 9. By the time Lee Day concluded, there were more than 4 million impressions about Lee University and Lee Day on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

In the late 1980s, Lee invited various Christian artists to sing or perform at Lee Day. A few of the all-stars during those days included Lisa Whelchel, Sandi Patty, Larnelle Harris, and the Power Team! This year, the idea was revived by inviting Christian hip-hop artist Lecrae to campus. It was a frigid night, but it did not dampen the excitement of all who attended. Thousands of guests, including Lee Day families, current students, alumni, and community members enjoyed a concert with the most well known Christian hip-hop artist in America. It was the perfect ending to the Lee Day weekend.

I attended Lee Day as a high school student myself in the spring of 1986, and it was the impetus for my enrollment at Lee. Many students today can make the same claim. While elements of Lee Day have remained for many years, these new ideas and plans will sustain Lee Day as a viable recruitment event for Lee in the future. This Lee Day was one for the ages!
In her own words, Dr. Alisa White ’80 has taken a circuitous path in her career in higher education. She has been in academia at seven different schools, always advancing with each move. She has literally been from one end of the United States to the other, but is now firmly in place as president of Austin Peay State University, arriving two years ago at the Clarksville, Tennessee campus.

Austin Peay was established in 1927 and has recently been one of Tennessee’s fastest growing universities, topping 10,000 students in 2009. It offers 56 majors and competes in NCAA Division I.

White came to APSU from the University of Texas at Tyler where she was serving as senior vice president and provost. It was her second stint at Tyler with a stop at Western State in between. Over the past nearly thirty years, she has been on the faculty and academic leadership at the University of Texas at Arlington, West Georgia College, Louisiana State University, arriving two years ago at the Clarksville, Tennessee campus.

White came to APSU from the University of Texas at Tyler where she was serving as senior vice president and provost. It was her second stint at Tyler with a stop at Western State in between. Over the past nearly thirty years, she has been on the faculty and academic leadership at the University of Texas at Arlington, West Georgia College, Louisiana State University, arriving two years ago at the Clarksville, Tennessee campus.

Austin Peay was established in 1927 and has recently been one of Tennessee’s fastest growing universities, topping 10,000 students in 2009. It offers 56 majors and competes in NCAA Division I. President White spoke warmly of her relationship with former professor of English, Dr. Sabord Woods, who not only served as a powerful mentor, but befriended her as well, both as a student and faculty colleague.

“I recall hours of discussion with Dr. Woods about literature, “Beowulf” (the oldest surviving long poem in Old English), and life in general,” White said. “When I came back as an instructor and there was no faculty office space, he offered half of his office. He did not have an ego.”

While a student at Lee, White traveled with the Lee Singers, recalling it as one of those “grounding” experiences. “I refer often to those times under the direction of Dr. Jim Burns when we pushed and pushed until the excellence came,” White said. “It taught me the basic fundamental principle to not give up until you reach that level of expected excellence.”

“I run into Lee alumni all over the country, and what I find is they share both history and experience that make Lee University unique from other institutions,” White continued. “We love that common bond and heritage that stays with us, and we want to share it.” She told of recently meeting a fellow alum when she was at a store in Arlington, Texas, because he was proudly displaying the latest copy of Torch at his business.

White has shared her journey with her husband, Elliott Herzlich, who is a jewelry retailer, appraiser, and custom engraver. Together they have three children and two grandchildren. President White has kept in touch with her alma mater since arriving at APSU in 2014.

“Austin Peay has a beautiful campus with a mixture of new and historic buildings,” White stated. “In fact, I live in a historic home on campus that was built in 1878. Like Lee, the university is close to downtown, and I have been keeping tabs on how Lee’s campus is fostering the migration toward downtown, so much so that a couple of my vice presidents visited Lee to observe the evolution.”

Dr. White will have been on the job as president for two years on June 30. In terms of university presidencies, she is just getting started toward establishing her legacy—a legacy which was grounded in Lee University.
On May 11, 2015, twenty Lee University students began a cross-cultural journey that started from the Lee campus at 3:00 a.m. and ended with an arrival in Tel Aviv, Israel, on the following morning. The 10-day tour, led by Intercultural Studies professor Dr. Rolando Cuellar and his wife, Ruth, visited biblical landmarks such as the Garden of Gethsemane, the Sea of Galilee, the Garden Tomb, Hezekiah’s Tunnel, and much more. This trip of a lifetime left many Lee students, including myself, in awe of the culture, geography, history, and religious significance the Holy Land offers.

The majority of the thirteen males and seven females who participated were School of Religion majors; however, the trip was opened to students of any major. For example, math, psychology, and other majors joined the trip. Upon arrival in Tel Aviv, we drove to the northern town of Tiberias, located on the Sea of Galilee where Jesus walked on water. The five nights spent in Tiberias were action-packed. Among the towns we visited included Capernaum, Magdala, Nazareth, Caesarea Philippi, Tel Dan, and more. Additionally, some of us were baptized in the Jordan River at the “Yardenit.” The water may have been cold, but the experience was worth it. Dr. Cuellar administered the baptisms, and the surreal feeling of being baptized in the same river where Jesus was baptized captivated our group.

Leaving Tiberias, we headed south and arrived at the Dead Sea where we stayed overnight. Floating on the Dead Sea was such a surreal experience—everyone’s skin and hair were very soft due to the high salt levels. While we were there, we visited Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. Then we traveled to Masada, which at one time was the Palace of Herod, and later on became a refuge for the Zealots.

The majority of the thirteen males and seven females who participated were School of Religion majors; however, the trip was opened to students of any major. For example, math, psychology, and other majors joined the trip. Upon arrival in Tel Aviv, we drove to the northern town of Tiberias, located on the Sea of Galilee where Jesus walked on water. The five nights spent in Tiberias were action-packed. Among the towns we visited included Capernaum, Magdala, Nazareth, Caesarea Philippi, Tel Dan, and more. Additionally, some of us were baptized in the Jordan River at the “Yardenit.” The water may have been cold, but the experience was worth it. Dr. Cuellar administered the baptisms, and the surreal feeling of being baptized in the same river where Jesus was baptized captivated our group.

Leaving Tiberias, we headed south and arrived at the Dead Sea where we stayed overnight. Floating on the Dead Sea was such a surreal experience—everyone’s skin and hair were very soft due to the high salt levels. While we were there, we visited Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. Then we traveled to Masada, which at one time was the Palace of Herod, and later on became a refuge for the Zealots.

Jerusalem, for me, was the climax of the trip, and I’m sure others would agree. Jerusalem is a holy city for the three major religions of the world—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Among the many things we did in Jerusalem included visiting the Temple Mount where the first and second Temples were built, the Upper Room, the Garden Tomb, the Via Dolorosa, which is the road where Jesus walked as He bore His cross on the way to Golgotha, and more. At the Temple Mount, we wrote a prayer on a piece of paper and placed it in the cracks of the Wailing Wall, which is a common ritual for both Jews and Christians alike. Another important highlight of our trip was our journey to the Church of the Nativity located in Bethlehem, a Palestinian part of the country, where the manger and the birthplace of Jesus are located. Before returning to Jerusalem, we went to a Palestinian restaurant where the food was very delicious.

Perhaps what was most surprising about Israel was the geography. Israel is roughly the size of New Jersey. However, it holds the Dead Sea, the lowest point on earth, as well as Mount Hermon, which at 9,000 feet high is taller than any peak on the Eastern side of the United States. Lakes, rivers, plains, and rolling hills can be found from any view. The trip featured beautiful lookouts such as Mount Carmel, Mount Arbel, the Mount of the Precipice, Golan Heights, and more, that featured a 360º view of the rest of Israel.

Our trip to Israel was marked by awe and amazement, walking through the very sites where Jesus walked and lived. Reading through Scripture and visualizing the very places we visited gives us a more visual picture of the events that transpired. Although we were there for only ten days, the memories will still stay with us the rest of our lives—Israel will not be forgotten.

—James Spencer is a Bible and Theology student at Lee University.
the opportunity to sit in on a handful of master classes with some of Hillsong’s top media workers. As we sat and listened to the wisdom they gladly shared, we learned some of the secrets that Hillsong uses to globally market themselves; and we saw firsthand the value of the role that social media plays in all aspects of the church, music groups, and school. One class we took was with the crisis communication manager, who shared her tips on maintaining structure of the Hillsong brand when things go wrong.

The second week of our trip was spent in the city of Cairns. A short, three-hour plane ride took us from Sydney to this beautiful, tropical city. During our four-day visit, we explored local markets, tried Australian delicacies like kangaroo and vegemite, and spent a day on the Great Barrier Reef, snorkeling and boating through the beautiful seascape. When our time in Cairns came to an end, we traveled back to Sydney to begin preparing for our jobs at the Hillsong Conference—an event which gave us all an indescribable sense of excitement. We were given a tour of Allphones Arena, which also housed the 2000 Olympics. By evening, we had each been assigned our jobs for the next week of conference.

We were so excited to be working the conference that we didn’t even mind the 7:00 a.m. call time to be at the arena. The week flew by as we worked the morning and afternoon sessions and attended the evening service. Many of us had jobs as greeters or ushers, which gave us the opportunity to interact with people from all over the world. When the conference came to an end on Friday night, we were all incredibly exhausted, but also inspired and encouraged to spread the love of Jesus.

Trip member, Kayla Harris said, “One of the most impactful experiences from the trip was the work we did with Hillsong. The worship experiences were fulfilling and brought me closer to God. There was much growth and development that happened while I was in Australia.”

This trip was a mix of education, service, and tourism. We spent time in classes learning real life skills that will be useful for each of us in future jobs. Volunteering in service taught us more than we could have ever expected by traveling through two Australian cities. Our group loved our time spent in Australia, and I believe that any other student would too.

Junior Virginia Lentz summed up the trip by saying, “I’ve wanted to go to Australia for longer than I can remember, so having the opportunity to do so was incredible. Getting to work with Hillsong was a life-changing experience. Doing things like snorkeling in the Great Barrier Reef, hugging koalas, and feeding wallabies are memories I will cherish forever.”
This spring’s Commissioning service had all the looks of those that had come before. Six graduating seniors were chosen to speak about their Lee experience and the service concluded with the presentation of a Bible to each graduate.

However, when Kendra Gray stepped to the podium to deliver her student story, she became the first “on-line” student selected to speak at Commissioning. She was graduating with honors with a B.S. in liberal studies completed through Lee University Online.

“I know you’ve heard of the four-year plan, the five-year plan, a couple of people do the six-year plan, but, yes, I am the 30-year plan girl,” Gray said as she opened her speech.

She graduated high school in 1986 and immediately began her college career as a true freshman at Ferris State University. Soon, marriage, pregnancy, and the pressures of family caused her to step away from her education after her freshman year.

Gray and her family moved to Cleveland, Tennessee, in 1991 as her husband, David, enrolled at Lee and completed his ministry degree in 1996. To make ends meet and help pay for David’s education, Gray earned a living babysitting. Fast forward 25 years, and she found herself graduating with one of the children she used to babysit—Ben Taylor.

“The Taylors have been great friends of ours for years now, and I’d like to think that the preschool lessons I gave Ben helped contribute to his success,” Gray said jokingly. “I’d like to think I helped get him to Yale Divinity School.”

After her husband’s graduation from Lee, the couple worked in local church ministry for 14 years. Gray found her way back to Lee in 2009 when she was hired as the administrative assistant to the director of Public Relations Brian Conn.

“God just opened a door for me at the perfect time,” Gray said. “One of the perks of working at Lee was I became capable of taking classes to work toward my degree. I took classes on campus during my lunch breaks and after work until there were no other classes scheduled at those times for me to take.”

“Honestly, I didn’t think online was an option for me because I thought they offered ministry degrees. Once I found the Liberal Studies program and the courses in communication, management, and marketing, I knew I had found my way home,” Gray said.

Gray admits that she had other apprehensions about completing her degree online.

“My first thought was that I was afraid I was taking a shortcut or the easy way out, but that was definitely not the case,” Gray said. “Online students are held to as high, if not higher standard than students in the traditional classroom. You have to be disciplined to complete your degree online, but I found that the more disciplined I got in my studies, the more disciplined I became in other areas of my life.”

That discipline was evident as she navigated her studies while managing her career and all the responsibilities that come with being a wife, mother, and grandmother. She said she often planned her week around her class syllabi, fitting in her studies with her time dealing with “kids, grandbabies, health issues, church, and other general issues of life.”

“Kendra’s job requirements and her big family take up a lot of her focus,” Conn said.

“She’s got different responsibilities than the traditional student as she is coordinating things as both a parent and grandparent.”

For DAL Executive Director Joshua Black, Gray’s story represents “hundreds of other mothers, fathers, grandparents, and other adult students” currently studying online at Lee.

“Kendra represents thousands of students who attended Lee or another college at one point, but weren’t able to complete their degree. The Division of Adult Learning helps those folks complete their degrees in the most convenient way possible—online, so that they can finish their degree while their lives go on all across the globe,” Black said.

In the end, Gray found more than just a convenient, flexible way to earn her degree through Lee University Online, she found a community of faith.

“I found that you build deeper relationships with classmates and professors online than you do in the traditional classroom,” Gray said. “In a traditional classroom, you might build a close relationship with one or two other students. Online, you interact with everyone. In that way, the online community was deeper than I ever had as a traditional student.”

Smith is NEW MEN’S BASKETBALL COACH

Ryan “Bubba” Smith has been selected as the new head coach of the Lee men’s basketball program. The announcement was made during a press conference in April, formally introducing Smith and his family.

Smith, who has built the Sewanee (University of the South) program into one of the top teams in NCAA Division III basketball over the past eight years, will become only the ninth head coach in the history of Lee basketball.

“I am very happy to welcome Coach Smith and his family to Lee,” said Lee University president, Dr. Paul Conn. “He is clearly an outstanding young coach, and I'm confident he has the ‘right stuff’ to lead our men’s basketball program into the top echelon of NCAA D2 teams in our conference and nationally.”

“I admire what he has done at Sewanee and earlier in his career, and I believe he and his wife Cortney will be a great fit for the Lee community.”

Lee Athletic Director Larry Carpenter pointed out that Coach Smith has a proven track record of success and feels the new coach will make an immediate impact in the Gulf South Conference.

Carpenter added, “We received more than 250 resumes for the coaching position. There were several outstanding applicants and the (search) committee had a hard time narrowing the field. What impressed us about Coach Smith was his understanding of Lee’s mission and his desire to get the campus and community engaged with Lee University basketball. You could sense his enthusiasm and eagerness to make Lee one of the top programs in DII. We feel he is the right man to lead our program, and we can’t wait for him to get started.”

A graduate of Furman University, Smith enjoyed a four-year basketball career with the Paladins. He was a four-year letterman and team captain during his junior and senior seasons.

His first head coaching opportunity came at Hampden-Sydney (Va.), a nationally recognized program and a member of the ODAC (Old Dominion Athletic Conference). After serving as an assistant for three years, he was named head coach in 2003 and remained there for five years. He became the first rookie coach to direct a Division III program to a No. 1 ranking. Smith’s overall record at Hampden-Sydney was 93-45, including two ODAC championship titles and two NCAA national tournament appearances.

In 2008, Smith took over a Sewanee basketball program that had struggled for years. Built on defense and rebounding, his 2011-2012 squad was 11-2 at home—the school’s best home mark since 1998.

Smith has twice been named the SAA (Southern Athletic Association) coach of the year. The Tigers recorded five straight winning seasons, and this past year, they went 20-8 and became only the fourth 20-win mark registered in Sewanee basketball history.

“I have such a great respect for Lee University, what it values, and their commitment to excellence in developing young men and women on this campus,” Smith stated. “Dr. Conn’s vision and passion for competing in the Gulf South Conference and having a program that represents Lee’s mission is evident. Through our process, we felt a peace about the opportunity at Lee, and after meeting the Search Committee and Dr. Conn, those feelings were confirmed. I couldn’t be more excited about beginning this journey with our family and joining the Cleve-land community.”

Smith will bring his wife, Cortney, and four children—Isaac (14), Mary Britain (12), Emma (9), and Izzy (7)—to Cleveland, which will begin another new journey.
Wadley Will Be LEE’S FIRST LACROSSE COACH

Adelyn (Addie) Wadley has been selected to become the first Lee University women’s lacrosse coach. Originally from Santa Barbara, Calif., Wadley’s parents were missionaries, and she spent her childhood years in South Africa. She returned to California for high school and eventually attended and played lacrosse at Biola University.

Wadley devoted most of her high school years toward developing her soccer skills, but it was during her college days that she began picking up the game of lacrosse. The new Lee coach went on to break all the scoring records at Biola.

After graduating from Biola with a degree in human biology, she accepted the position of head women’s lacrosse coach for the club program at the University of Oregon. Earlier, she had coached Club Lacrosse in Orange County, Calif.

“I am so excited that Lee is starting a lacrosse program, and I am honored that I have the privilege of being named the first head coach,” said Wadley during an email conversation. “Lee could not have picked a better time to start the program. Women’s lacrosse is growing rapidly in the United States at both the high school and collegiate level. I feel so blessed to have the opportunity to coach lacrosse in such a spiritually rich, God-centered environment.”

Wadley

Tennis Teams QUALIFY FOR GSC TOURNAMENT

The Lee tennis teams finished their first full official season in the Gulf South Conference (GSC) and NCAA Division II with overall winning records. The Lady Flames were 16-10, including a 3-7 conference mark. The Flames ended the campaign at 12-11 and were 3-6 in the rugged GSC.

Both squads qualified for the GSC Tournament with the Flames seeded No. 6 and the Lady Flames grabbing the eighth-seed. The men were knocked out of the GSC Tournament by third-seeded North Alabama, while the women were beaten by top-seeded and sixth-ranked West Florida.

A spring-break trip to the Orlando area saw the Lady Flames pick up wins in all five matches played. The Flames recorded a 2-1 record on the same trip.

Freshmen Eirik Groner and Francesca Tondi highlighted the 2016 season. Groner carried a 12-5 record and was named the GSC Freshman of the Year, along with a spot on the All-GSC First Team.

The Flames look to return their entire lineup for the 2016-2017 schoolyear. The team was made up of two juniors, one sophomore, and five freshmen. The Lady Flames had two seniors, one junior, one sophomore, and four freshmen.

Baseball Flames Reach GSC TOURNAMENT

The Lee baseball team completed its first year of eligibility in NCAA Division and Gulf South Conference (GSC) during the 2015-2016 school-year. The Flames, under the leadership of Coach Mark Brew, posted a 30-18 overall record and were 18-11 against very strong GSC competition.

Brew’s crew qualified for the six-team GSC tournament, which was hosted by the University of West Florida in Pensacola, Fla. The Flames were beaten in the opening game of the tournament by West Florida—a game decided in the final inning by a grand-slam homer.

In the second game of the double-elimination tournament, the Flames trailed Alabama Huntsville 10-2 going into the final innings. The never-say-die Flames cut the margin to 10-9 and had the tying run on third and a possible winning run on second before UAH recorded the final out and eliminated the batting Lee team.

It was an outstanding year for Lee senior, first baseman, Ben Holland. He posted a season-best 22-game hitting streak 3/6-4/16, in which he racked up eight multi-hit performances, including 14 RBIs, 11 doubles, and three home runs. Holland was named the GSC Player of the Year after batting .424 with 18 home runs and 54 runs batted in. After a solid conference tournament, Holland earned a spot on the GSC All-Tournament team. His biggest honor came when the conference selected the slugger as one of its Top 10 athletes. These awards not only go to the best athletes, but also to those with solid academic backgrounds.

Other baseball standouts included shortstop Luke Toms on the All-GSC First Team. Trent Hill and Art Vidrio were All-GSC Second Team members.
Softball Squeaks Out WINNING SEASON

The Lee University softball team ended the 2016 season, winning 11 of its final 13 games to finish the year at 25-24-1 overall and 11-18 in the Gulf South Conference in its first official year of NCAA Division II play.

The Lady Flames scored GSC series victories over West Florida, West Alabama, Union, and Christian Brothers. Lee also knocked off a No. 18 Young Harris College club with a doubleheader sweep at Butler Field on April 13.

The Lady Flames enjoyed a rewarding trip to Seaside, Calif., taking part in the Otter Invitational. Callie Kitchens stepped to the front and placed fourth against a talented field. Overall, the Lee team finished second. The Lady Flames took part in the Lady Cougar Classic sponsored by Columbus State University, placing second, and Bernadette Little was on the all-tournament team after finishing third in the medalist competition.

T he Lee University’s and men’s golf teams wrapped up successful spring seasons by earning berths in the NCAA Women’s D2 Super Region and the NCAA D2 Men’s South/SE Region. In their first year of being eligible to compete in NCAA Division II and the Gulf South Conference Tournament, as well as advancing to regional play, the Lee men lost in a playoff for top honors in the GSC tournament and the Lee women also placed second.

For the men, strong showings in spring events lifted the Flames to a No. 8 national ranking in the highly-respected Golfstat poll. The Flames proved their ranking by winning the UNA Spring Classic hosted by the University of North Alabama. Sliger earned one of the top five positions on the all-tournament team.

The Lady Flames enjoyed a rewarding trip to Seaside, Calif., taking part in the Otter Invitational. Callie Kitchens stepped to the front and placed fourth against a talented field. Overall, the Lee team finished second. The Lady Flames took part in the Lady Cougar Classic sponsored by Columbus State University, placing second, and Bernadette Little was on the all-tournament team after finishing third in the medalist competition.

The Lady Flames scored GSC series victories over West Florida, West Alabama, Union, and Christian Brothers. Lee also knocked off a No. 18 Young Harris College club with a doubleheader sweep at Butler Field on April 13.

The Lady Flames enjoyed a rewarding trip to Seaside, Calif., taking part in the Otter Invitational. Callie Kitchens stepped to the front and placed fourth against a talented field. Overall, the Lee team finished second. The Lady Flames took part in the Lady Cougar Classic sponsored by Columbus State University, placing second, and Bernadette Little was on the all-tournament team after finishing third in the medalist competition.

Men Take First, Women Second in GSC TRACK AND FIELD

In its first season of official competition in the Gulf South Conference (GSC), the Lee University Men’s Track and Field team finished first in the GSC Championships, while the Lady Flames were second.

Head Coach Caleb Morgan was named the GSC Men’s Track and Field Coach of the Year after leading the Flames to their first GSC Championship. Amy Carpenter earned GSC Women’s Track and Field Freshman of the Year.

At the Championships, Seth Eagleson and Adrian Martin earned Most Outstanding Track Performer honors. Lee placed 19 athletes on the All-GSC teams for their performances at the GSC Championships. The top finishing eligible participant in each event was selected as All-GSC First Team and the second place eligible finishers were All-GSC Second Team.

The two squads have combined to meet NCAA Division II provisional qualifying standards in five separate events. The Brooks brothers each met the standard in the 200-meter dash and teamed with Jones and Stephen Cannon to qualify in the 4x100-meter relay, while Harold Smith was quicker than the necessary time in the 800-meter run. For the women, Martin posted provisional qualifying times with the eighth-fastest times this season in the 100- and 200-meter dashes.

The Flames and Lady Flames combined for 27 new school records with the men responsible for 14. The new men’s records are in the 200m (Jo. Brooks), 400m (Ju. Brooks), 110m hurdles (Goforth), high jump (Goforth), pole vault (Schrade), long jump (Jo. Brooks), triple jump (Jo. Brooks), shot put (C. Smith), discus throw (Schrade), hammer throw (C. Smith), javelin throw (Goforth), 3000m (H. Smith), 4x100m relay (Jo. Brooks, Jones, Cannon, and Ju. Brooks), and the 4x400m relay (Ju. Brooks, H. Smith, Kipchumba, and Jo. Brooks).

Martin set three individual records (100m, 200m and 400m) and was part of the 4x100m and 4x400m relay team records. Joining Martin on the relay teams were Monique Beckford, Amanda Hearty, Kiley Brock, and Thacker. Thacker is now also the record-holder in the long jump and javeline throw, while Bryan holds the 100m and 400m hurdles records.

Broesch is tops in the hammer throw. The final three record-setters were Fondren (10000m), A. Smith (3000m steeplechase), and Kinser (pole vault).

Martin Wins ALL AMERICAN HONORS

Lee University’s Adrian Martin earned NCAA Division II Women’s Track and Field All-American Second Team honors for the second straight day with a 12th-place finish in the 200 meter dash prelims Friday afternoon. The top eight finishers in the final earn first team recognition, while positions 9-12 are placed on the second team.

“I am so proud of Adrian,” said Lee head coach Caleb Morgan. “To get All-American status twice at nationals is an amazing accomplishment. I can’t wait to see what she accomplishes next season with this experience under her belt.”

Lee University’s Adrian Martin earned NCAA Division II Women’s Track and Field All-American Second Team honors for the second straight day with a 12th-place finish in the 200 meter dash prelims Friday afternoon. The top eight finishers in the final earn first team recognition, while positions 9-12 are placed on the second team.

“I am so proud of Adrian,” said Lee head coach Caleb Morgan. “To get All-American status twice at nationals is an amazing accomplishment. I can’t wait to see what she accomplishes next season with this experience under her belt.”

Lee University’s Adrian Martin earned NCAA Division II Women’s Track and Field All-American Second Team honors for the second straight day with a 12th-place finish in the 200 meter dash prelims Friday afternoon. The top eight finishers in the final earn first team recognition, while positions 9-12 are placed on the second team.

“I am so proud of Adrian,” said Lee head coach Caleb Morgan. “To get All-American status twice at nationals is an amazing accomplishment. I can’t wait to see what she accomplishes next season with this experience under her belt.”

Lee University’s Adrian Martin earned NCAA Division II Women’s Track and Field All-American Second Team honors for the second straight day with a 12th-place finish in the 200 meter dash prelims Friday afternoon. The top eight finishers in the final earn first team recognition, while positions 9-12 are placed on the second team.

“I am so proud of Adrian,” said Lee head coach Caleb Morgan. “To get All-American status twice at nationals is an amazing accomplishment. I can’t wait to see what she accomplishes next season with this experience under her belt.”
**Dean and Briner WIN CONN AWARDS**

Softball standout Lexie Dean and versatile baseball player Kyle Briner have been selected by the Lee University coaching staff and athletic administrators as winners of the annual Charles Paul Conn Athlete of the Year Award.

The awards are presented annually to individuals who best exemplify the athletic, academic, and spiritual leadership of Lee University student athletes.

**DEAN’S ACCOLADES AND SERVICE:**

A career all-time hits leader; four-year starter on softball team; 2013–2014 NFCA All-America Scholar-Athlete; 2013–2014 NCCAA Scholar-Athlete award; 2014 NCCAA Mid-East First Team All-Region; 2014 NCCAA Second Team All-American, 2014–2015 NFCA All-America Scholar-Athlete; 2014–2015 NCCAA Scholar-Athlete award; 2015 NCCAA Mid-East First Team All-Region; 2015 NCCAA First Team All-American, and 2015 NCCAA All-Tournament Team; 2016 Second Team All-Gulf South.

Dean is the daughter of Skip and Kellie Dean of Ooltewah, Tenn. She is a health science major, a member of Alpha Chi National Honor Society since 2014, and was the winner of the Tucker Foundation Math and Science Department award. She holds a minor in psychology and graduated summa cum laude this spring. Dean plans to attend nursing school and later go on to become a nurse practitioner.

**BRINER’S ACCOLADES AND SERVICE:**

President of the SAAC Committee; team captain; team chaplain; Military Appreciation Day; Disabled American Veterans car show, and many other team community projects; actively involved in City Church in Cleveland, created team Bible study; team missions trip to Dominican Republic. Senior year on field stats: 4.88 ERA, 4–2, 3 SV, 19 G, 27.2 IP, 7 BB, 20K; Hitting: 289, 83 AB, 24 H, 5 2B, 1 3B, 2 HRs, 14 RBIs (after not hitting in any of the previous four years).

Briner is the son of Troy Briner and Lori and Daniel Sheffield. The fifth-year senior holds a double major in accounting and business administration with finance emphasis. He owns a 3.33 GPA.

**Dean and Briner WIN CONN AWARDS**

Softball standout Lexie Dean and versatile baseball player Kyle Briner have been selected by the Lee University coaching staff and athletic administrators as winners of the annual Charles Paul Conn Athlete of the Year Award.

The awards are presented annually to individuals who best exemplify the athletic, academic, and spiritual leadership of Lee University student athletes.

**DEAN’S ACCOLADES AND SERVICE:**

A career all-time hits leader; four-year starter on softball team; 2013–2014 NFCA All-America Scholar-Athlete; 2013–2014 NCCAA Scholar-Athlete award; 2014 NCCAA Mid-East First Team All-Region; 2014 NCCAA Second Team All-American, 2014–2015 NFCA All-America Scholar-Athlete; 2014–2015 NCCAA Scholar-Athlete award; 2015 NCCAA Mid-East First Team All-Region; 2015 NCCAA First Team All-American, and 2015 NCCAA All-Tournament Team; 2016 Second Team All-Gulf South.

Dean is the daughter of Skip and Kellie Dean of Ooltewah, Tenn. She is a health science major, a member of Alpha Chi National Honor Society since 2014, and was the winner of the Tucker Foundation Math and Science Department award. She holds a minor in psychology and graduated summa cum laude this spring. Dean plans to attend nursing school and later go on to become a nurse practitioner.

**BRINER’S ACCOLADES AND SERVICE:**

President of the SAAC Committee; team captain; team chaplain; Military Appreciation Day; Disabled American Veterans car show, and many other team community projects; actively involved in City Church in Cleveland, created team Bible study; team missions trip to Dominican Republic. Senior year on field stats: 4.88 ERA, 4–2, 3 SV, 19 G, 27.2 IP, 7 BB, 20K; Hitting: 289, 83 AB, 24 H, 5 2B, 1 3B, 2 HRs, 14 RBIs (after not hitting in any of the previous four years).

Briner is the son of Troy Briner and Lori and Daniel Sheffield. The fifth-year senior holds a double major in accounting and business administration with finance emphasis. He owns a 3.33 GPA.

**1980s**

Diana Jackson ‘81 lives in Cleveland, Tenn., with her husband, Royce. Diana is chief executive officer at Life Bridges, Inc., a nonprofit organization, which helps people with developmental disabilities.

Hugh ‘83 and Laura Riley Hale ‘84 have relocated back to Tennessee from New York City where they had been living for the past three years. Hugh has accepted the position of chief information officer for Tennessee’s Healthcare Finance and Administration office. They live in downtown Nashville, have four grown children and one grandchild.

**2000s**

Brice Jones ‘09 and his wife, Meghan ‘09, live in Monroe, LA. Brice earned a Master of Arts degree from Yale and a doctorate (Ph.D.) from Concordia in New Testament and early Christianity. He recently published his doctoral dissertation on ancient biblical manuscripts, and was interviewed by and cited in The New York Times, among other national media outlets in regard to his work in ancient manuscripts. Currently, he is the assistant director of media relations at the University of Louisiana Monroe.

**2010s**

Kurt Miller ‘11 is based out of Marietta, Ga., but is currently serving as a missionary in a predominantly Muslim country in the 10/40 window. Kurt says, “The Prayer Ministry at Lee completely transformed my life. We saw God do incredible things on the campus.”

Anne Maddux Frazier ‘12M, recently joined Wiseman Ashworth Law Group in Chattanooga, Tenn., as an associate. She is a 2015 graduate of Emory University School of Law with a concentration in civil litigation. During law school, Anne clerked for the Circuit Court Judge of the 11th Judicial District in Chattanooga and also served as a clerk to the Office of the Tennessee Attorney General.

**WHO’S WHERE?**

**Who’s Where?**

Dean and Briner WIN CONN AWARDS

Softball standout Lexie Dean and versatile baseball player Kyle Briner have been selected by the Lee University coaching staff and athletic administrators as winners of the annual Charles Paul Conn Athlete of the Year Award.

The awards are presented annually to individuals who best exemplify the athletic, academic, and spiritual leadership of Lee University student athletes.

**DEAN’S ACCOLADES AND SERVICE:**

A career all-time hits leader; four-year starter on softball team; 2013–2014 NFCA All-America Scholar-Athlete; 2013–2014 NCCAA Scholar-Athlete award; 2014 NCCAA Mid-East First Team All-Region; 2014 NCCAA Second Team All-American, 2014–2015 NFCA All-America Scholar-Athlete; 2014–2015 NCCAA Scholar-Athlete award; 2015 NCCAA Mid-East First Team All-Region; 2015 NCCAA First Team All-American, and 2015 NCCAA All-Tournament Team; 2016 Second Team All-Gulf South.

Dean is the daughter of Skip and Kellie Dean of Ooltewah, Tenn. She is a health science major, a member of Alpha Chi National Honor Society since 2014, and was the winner of the Tucker Foundation Math and Science Department award. She holds a minor in psychology and graduated summa cum laude this spring. Dean plans to attend nursing school and later go on to become a nurse practitioner.

**BRINER’S ACCOLADES AND SERVICE:**

President of the SAAC Committee; team captain; team chaplain; Military Appreciation Day; Disabled American Veterans car show, and many other team community projects; actively involved in City Church in Cleveland, created team Bible study; team missions trip to Dominican Republic. Senior year on field stats: 4.88 ERA, 4–2, 3 SV, 19 G, 27.2 IP, 7 BB, 20K; Hitting: 289, 83 AB, 24 H, 5 2B, 1 3B, 2 HRs, 14 RBIs (after not hitting in any of the previous four years).

Briner is the son of Troy Briner and Lori and Daniel Sheffield. The fifth-year senior holds a double major in accounting and business administration with finance emphasis. He owns a 3.33 GPA.

**1980s**

Diana Jackson ‘81 lives in Cleveland, Tenn., with her husband, Royce. Diana is chief executive officer at Life Bridges, Inc., a nonprofit organization, which helps people with developmental disabilities.

Hugh ‘83 and Laura Riley Hale ‘84 have relocated back to Tennessee from New York City where they had been living for the past three years. Hugh has accepted the position of chief information officer for Tennessee’s Healthcare Finance and Administration office. They live in downtown Nashville, have four grown children and one grandchild.

**2000s**

Brice Jones ‘09 and his wife, Meghan ‘09, live in Monroe, LA. Brice earned a Master of Arts degree from Yale and a doctorate (Ph.D.) from Concordia in New Testament and early Christianity. He recently published his doctoral dissertation on ancient biblical manuscripts, and was interviewed by and cited in The New York Times, among other national media outlets in regard to his work in ancient manuscripts. Currently, he is the assistant director of media relations at the University of Louisiana Monroe.

**2010s**

Kurt Miller ‘11 is based out of Marietta, Ga., but is currently serving as a missionary in a predominantly Muslim country in the 10/40 window. Kurt says, “The Prayer Ministry at Lee completely transformed my life. We saw God do incredible things on the campus.”

Anne Maddux Frazier ‘12M, recently joined Wiseman Ashworth Law Group in Chattanooga, Tenn., as an associate. She is a 2015 graduate of Emory University School of Law with a concentration in civil litigation. During law school, Anne clerked for the Circuit Court Judge of the 11th Judicial District in Chattanooga and also served as a clerk to the Office of the Tennessee Attorney General.
**What's Up with WHO'S WHERE?**

In a day when communicating is easier than it's ever been, certain methods of communicating have suffered. The Who's Where section of Torch is a prime example. With the prevalence of social media, many of us now keep our friends and family regularly in the know via Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. “Delayed” updates via the quarterly release of Torch seem to have taken a backseat with slowly declining entries flowing into the alumni office.

But We Still NEED YOU!

Who's Where remains a popular section of Torch, but we need an infusion of updates! Submitting an update is easier than ever, including photos!

The easiest way:
1. Visit the [www.leeuniversity.edu/alumni](http://www.leeuniversity.edu/alumni) and click on the alumni and partners link.
2. Click Torch.
3. Click the Who's Where Update option.

If you prefer an update via postal mail, please mail your entry to:

Lee University Alumni Office  
P.O. Box 3450  
Cleveland, TN 37320-3450

On all entries, please include the last year you were a student at Lee.

When we think of you, a lot of words come to mind…

praise  together  hooray  lineage

delight  care  dependable  generosity

inspiration  helpful  friends  dedicated

empower  share  foresight  kind

thankfulness  triumph  help  pride

blessing  influence  join

alumni

giving  gratitude  impact

…and most of all - thank you.
Lee University is an unusual place, but not a magical one. Your support is what makes Lee possible. A gift today will make Lee a reality for many more students.

www.leeuniversity.edu/give