CONTENTS

In the Eyes of the Beholder
Graduating senior Jillian Ellis closes out her writing career at Lee by taking on the challenge of capturing her own graduation weekend. The PR major who wrote for the Office of Public Information tells her side of the story. —by Jillian Ellis

Four More Years!
President Conn was recently elected unanimously by the Board of Directors to serve Lee University as president until 2018.

A Run of Epic Proportions
A group of 26 runners, more than half of whom are Lee alumni, set out and conquered more than 1,000 miles from Cleveland, Tennessee to Boston, running relay style, raising more than $63,000 for two charities, and picking up national publicity along the way.

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Lee and the Luck O’ the Irish
In an ongoing series focusing on the Global Perspectives program, we venture to the country of Ireland where a group of Lee students experienced the three provinces of the Emerald Isle during spring break.

Departments
10 Campus News
23 Sports
32 Who’s Where and Torch Travels

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On the cover: Class of 2014 graduates prepare to enter Walker Arena to receive their diplomas during spring commencement (Photo: Mike Wesson)

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Who’s Where and Torch Travels

Shirley Garmon

Who’s Where

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Who’s Where

Shirley Garmon

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Up Close & Personal

Lee’s spring commencement through the eyes of a graduate.

by Jillian Ellis

THE TIME I THOUGHT WOULD NEVER COME HAD FINALLY ARRIVED.

I was sitting among over 450 fellow graduates waiting for my time to walk across the stage and receive a Bible signed by Dr. Paul Conn. We were inside the Walker Arena at the 2014 Lee University Commissioning Service—the first event of the largest graduation in Lee history.

The service began with a hymn, a welcome, and a prayer said by graduate Ryan Hartman. We then listened to six graduates give speeches that reminisced about their time at Lee. The speakers were Benjamin Counts, Justin Madden, Katharine McConnell, Katelyn Richards, Danielle Seals, and Brice Sharp. We heard stories of friends made at Lee, clubs that shaped the students, professors who poured into their lives, and more.

Madden, a graduating athletic training major, compared Lee to the tools used in athletic training. “The tools don’t heal the athletes themselves,” said Madden. “The tools help create an environment within the body God so magnificently created to heal itself. That’s similar to how Lee works. It gives us an environment to let God work in us and grow.”

While listening to the students speak, I was pushed to reminisce about my own Lee experience. Tears welled up in my eyes as I mentally walked through my dual enrollment years and freshman year of hopping to find my place, my sophomore and junior years of falling in love with the school and the people who make it so special, and finally my senior year of desperately trying to soak up every last second I had at Lee, and with the friends who changed my life.

The fact that the Lord remained the center of my Lee experience was another one of the many blessings I reflected on during the speeches.
“My greatest hope today is that the testimony of our lives will reflect that we never had to return to the Lord,” said Counts, graduating public relations major. “We walked out of here today, we lived it out, we stayed faithful, and we never left Him.”

Once the speeches ended, it was time to make our first trip across the stage. We received personally engraved and signed Bibles and returned to our seats for the closing comments.

Commencement lineup came early on Saturday morning. We met in the DeVos Recreation Center at 7:30 a.m. and talked with friends until it was time to line up.

Once hoods and caps were perfectly positioned within our regalia, we were ready to march into the Walker Arena. With heads held high and brilliant smiles, we entered the gym. Hundreds of proud relatives desperately attempted to get the attention of their graduate to take a picture and add to the multitude of flashes.

We took our seats and listened to opening remarks from Dr. Conn. He asked parents, grandparents, siblings, and children of the graduates to stand. As I looked around at these proud, smiling faces, I was reminded that they were the backbone of this graduation. Without them, several of the graduates, including me, never would have made it to this point.

We listened to the Lee Singers sing a beautiful rendition of “This Is My Father’s World” then Dr. Carol Taylor, president of Evangel University, approached the platform for the Commencement address.

Dr. Taylor began her speech by stating that she was the only thing standing between the graduates and their diplomas, so she would be brief. While her address was brief, it was moving. Dr. Taylor spoke of the questions God asked Moses in Exodus. “What is that in your hand?” she asked. Taylor compared Moses’ staff to our diplomas, stating that if we take what is in our hands and give it to the Lord, it will be used for His kingdom. She challenged us to give our diplomas to the Lord as an offering.

Once Dr. Taylor finished, our time had come. We stood as departments and approached the stage. When my time came to walk across the stage, I was petrified. I could only imagine falling flat on my face as I walked up the rather shaky stairs. However, I managed to walk to Dr. Conn, shake his hand, and take my diploma. I was done. My college career was complete with one handshake.

I returned to my seat with my department and waited for the rest of the graduates to be seated. A few more speakers made remarks then Dr. William Estes gave the closing prayer. As he finished, I, along with the other graduates, said our final Lee University benediction. “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight, Oh Lord, my strength and my Redeemer. Amen.”

Jillian Ellis is the daughter of Cheri and David Ellis and is from Cleveland, Tenn. On May 10, she received her degree in public relations with a minor in advertising.
The highest award for a Lee faculty member is chosen each year by a special committee, which includes students and faculty from six different departments. It honors excellence in teaching, and has been given for the past 42 years to honor the quality that Lee University values most highly. Our honoree this year joined the Lee faculty ten years ago, and has consistently challenged, inspired, provoked, nurtured, entertained, and enlightened his students in a way that marks him as a truly gifted classroom teacher. Our honoree has many abilities, and has recently been appointed to serve as chair of his department, but his highest calling and his greatest gifts will always be those of a teacher, and I take particular pleasure in awarding the 2014 Excellence in Teaching Award to Dr. Skip Jenkins.

F.J. Lee Award
Established in 1968, this award is named in honor of the second president of Lee, who served from 1922-1923. This award is given to the senior with the overall most outstanding record of student achievement.

Shylah Slaughter
Shylah Slaughter is graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in English with a writing emphasis. She was a member of Sigma Nu Sigma and the international English honor society—Sigma Tau Delta. Shylah has worked with the Admissions office on the Advancement Force and as a peer leader for first-year programs. After graduation, Shylah plans to work as a senior secretary at South Dakota State University.

Charles Paul Conn Award
Established in 1996, this award is given to the senior who shows the greatest promise of making a significant contribution to the church. It is named in honor of the sixth president of Lee, who served from 1935-1944.

Anna Sandberg
Anna Sandberg graduated magna cum laude with majors in both mathematics and chemistry. While pursuing her baccalaureate degree, she served in several roles in Sigma Nu Sigma, as president for the Lee Prime Mathematics Club, and as the captain of the women’s tennis team. Anna completed an internship with NASA Glenn Research Center, and she was a member of Kappa Mu Epsilon—a national honor society in mathematics. After graduation, Anna will be attending Vanderbilt University to pursue a doctoral degree in material science engineering.

Abigail Greves
Abigail Greves graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in biblical and theological studies. She was involved in Campus Choir and Convergence—a prayer community. Abigail worked as a floor leader, a resident assistant, and as a student worker for the School of Religion. Abigail was a member of Phi Eta Sigma, the campus Koine Greek club, and the National Honor Society, Alpha Chi. She recently received the Theology Department award. Abigail plans to pursue a Master of Divinity degree at Emory University.

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The exterior of the new Communication Arts Building changes daily as brick masons apply their skills to completing the brickwork on Lee’s latest addition to the campus.

The shape of the two-story academic structure is complete, and residents of the city of Cleveland can now clearly see how the downtown will be reshaped with the addition of the building at the corner of Ocoee Street and Central Avenue. Landscaping around the building will include new, wider sidewalks along Central and Ocoee.

Work on the interior also continues with HVAC nearly complete and sheetrock alterations are projected for completion by the time students arrive for the fall 2014 semester this August.

According to director of Operations, Cole Strong, “traffic calming” renovations to Church Street between Central and 6th Streets will begin later this summer. Changes to the street will include adding a grassy median similar to a portion of Parker Street between 13th and Billy Graham Ave.

The Communications Building and street alterations are projected for completion by the time students arrive for the fall 2014 semester this August.

Dr. Paul Conn has been elected by the school’s Board of Directors to serve a new term as president, beginning August 1. The action was taken in the board’s session during the commencement weekend, according to Gary Sharp, chairman of the board.

“We are thrilled that Dr. Conn has accepted a new term as president.” Sharp said. “He has led the university in many outstanding accomplishments, and we believe many more wonderful years are ahead.” Sharp said the board’s action was “unanimous and enthusiastic,” extending Conn’s appointment for a four-year term, beginning this summer and ending in 2018.

In accepting the appointment, Conn said: “I have a tremendous sense of gratitude for the board’s support of me and what we are doing here at Lee. I’m grateful for the excellent faculty and staff I work with, and I honestly look forward to going to campus to begin every new day. We have lots of exciting goals in our future, and I couldn’t ask for a more supportive or positive faculty and board to partner with on this journey.”

Conn became president on August 1, 1986 after teaching for 15 years on Lee’s psychology faculty. He is a graduate of Lee and earned his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Emory University in psychology. He later served as a postdoctoral Visiting Scholar at Harvard University and has spent four years there in postdoctoral study. He holds the rank of professor of psychology and still teaches an undergraduate psychology course at Lee for 100 students each fall semester.

During his tenure as president of Lee, Conn has been elected by his presidential peers to serve on many professional boards. He has served on the national board of the Council of Independent Colleges, spent two terms on the executive committee of the Southern Association Commission on Colleges, served on the executive board of Appalachian Colleges Association, and was elected to three, three-year terms on the national board of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities. In athletics, he served as president of the Southern States Athletic Conference before Lee left that organization to join the NCAA, Division II in 2012.

Lee University is currently in a capital campaign called the “Find Us Faithful” campaign which is nearing completion of a new $10 million building for the Department of Communication Arts, and which will include the construction of a new School of Nursing by late 2016, along with other projects.

Conn is married to Darlia McLuhan Conn, who is a member of the adjunct piano faculty in Lee’s School of Music. Together they have three children and ten grandchildren.
BRAEDEN REPRESENTS LEE
During “COLLEGE WEEK” on WHEEL OF FORTUNE

Lee senior Courtney Breaden represented Lee with excellence by winning the largest prize during her appearance on the game show, Wheel of Fortune, as part of its annual “College Week” on April 10. Advancing to the bonus round, she didn’t guess the final phrase, but she did win $21,800, thanks to a wild card, giving her $3,500 per letter and a trip to St. Lucia.

Breaden was the only player who spun the wheel on the puzzle she solved.

“It was crazy that I won that much money on it, but the thing that saved me was that I had that wild card. Pat [Sajak] told me to use it when I landed on the $3,500, because it allows you to get $3,500 for every letter you guess right,” Breaden said.

The senior said the money will likely go toward paying off student loans. The trip will be her honeymoon with her fiancé, Jordan Ramos, after they marry later this summer.

Breaden asked Lee president, Dr. Paul Conn, to pay for her plane ticket to California during an “Ask the President” chapel, where students are encouraged to ask the president anything they want. Conn agreed to fund her ticket if she had the opportunity to go. One week before filming, Breaden received a phone call from Wheel staff, affording her the opportunity. On Feb. 13, Breaden, along with her fiancé, her brother, and a friend, flew to Los Angeles for filming.

“I was a little intimidated when I arrived, because all of the other contestants were from Ivy Leagues and big state schools,” said Breaden. “I was proud to represent Lee among them all.”

While a student at Lee, Rowland worked for his department as a lab assistant and directed a regional children’s TV show. Following his graduation, he worked in corporate video in Chattanooga and directed various multicamera shoots on the side.

Rowland then worked for the national TV series The Best and Worst of Tred Barta as an editor, postproduction supervisor, and producer for the series’ eight seasons. This series became the highest rated program on the Versus Network, which later became the NBC Sports Channel.

Rowland and his business partner, Will Wheeler, own and currently manage Yonder Blue Films, a production company specializing in low-altitude aerial videography. The company regularly shoots for commercials, TV shows, and feature films. They have recently shot for Cartoon Network, USA Network, National Geographic, and the sequel to the Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels film, Dumb and Dumber.

Rowland, along with his wife, Kim, and daughter Skyta, currently resides in Georgia. The award was presented to Rowland on Thursday, April 3, during a visit to Lee.

“Ben continues to exemplify Christian character and professional excellence,” said Dukes. “The Communication Arts Department is very pleased to present him with our 2013 award.”

—Jillian Ellis

Editor’s Note: Alumnus of the Year Awards were presented by each academic department at Homecoming and featured in the last issue of Torch. Ben Rowland was unable to attend at the time and was recently presented with his award.

Ben Rowland is the recipient of the first Alumnus of the Year award from the Department of Communication Arts at Lee. The 2002 graduate holds a bachelor of arts (B.A.) in telecommunications and was presented the award during a campus visit April 3, 2014.

“Ben set the bar pretty high for what the typical Lee student was all about,” said Mary Dukes, one of Ben’s instructors and currently a lecturer in Digital Media Studies at Lee. “His ingenuity and creativity knew no bounds.”

While a student at Lee, Rowland worked for his department as a lab assistant and directed a regional children’s TV show. Following his graduation, he worked in corporate video in Chattanooga and directed various multicamera shoots on the side.

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Pictured in front of Lee’s new Communication Arts building is Rowland with Lee faculty (l to r) Matthew Fisher, Mary Dukes, Rowland, Joel Kailing, and Dustin Cawood.

Braeden Breaden gets ready to spin on the iconic game show, Wheel of Fortune. She was the top winner on the show, walking away with over $21,000.
Dill ADDRESSES SENATE COMMITTEE in Washington

Marian Dill, director of Financial Aid at Lee, spoke before the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) on Thursday, March 27, at the invitation of the United States Senate. The hearing, titled, “Strengthening the Federal Student Loan Program for Borrowers,” was held in the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C. The purpose of the hearing was to examine all aspects of the federal student loan programs, touching on issues ranging from origination, counseling, repayment plans, servicing, collections, and shared accountability.

Dill was asked to provide an overview of the current system from her perspective as a financial aid administrator, particularly focusing on aspects of the process that are working well for students and where the process can be improved. She was also asked to provide any recommendations to strengthen the loan counseling process, streamline and simplify the current system, and improve loan servicing.

Dill’s comments on Capitol Hill were aired live on C-SPAN.

“I was honored by the invitation from Senator Lamar Alexander,” said Dill. “I consider it a privilege to have the opportunity to advocate for improvements in the federal student aid programs.”

The hearing, which was televised live at 10 a.m. EST on C-SPAN, focused on four panelists, including Dill.

—Jillian Ellis

STEPHENSON ELECTED Leader of SPS Group

Dr. Christopher A. Stephenson, assistant professor of systematic theology at Lee, was recently elected group leader of Ecumenical Studies, one of nine disciplines of the Society for Pentecostal Studies (SPS) at an annual meeting in Springfield, Mo. As group leader, Stephenson will, for a three-year term, assist the SPS officers in implementing each annual meeting’s conference theme and help determine the recipient of the SPS annual Pneuma Book Award.

The Ecumenical Studies group is devoted to the pursuit of Christian unity through the academic study of Pentecostalism’s relationships to other Christian churches, including theological similarities and differences among them.

—Mary Beth Callahan

THREE Receive CWC AWARD

Erin Beims, Kory Vance, and Mary Mathias-Dickerson were recently presented with the 2014 Dr. Charles W. Conn Servant Leadership Award and Dr. Charles W. Conn Service-Learning Faculty Award, respectively, for their exemplary work in service-learning.

The Charles W. Conn Servant Leadership Scholarship was established in 2003 to honor the late President Dr. Charles W. Conn. As part of the university’s efforts to emphasize the importance of serving others, the award is given annually to rising seniors who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to service during their time at Lee. Students who receive this scholarship give a portion of the proceeds to a charity of their choice.

Beims is a humanities major from Huntsville, Ala. Since coming to Lee she has served in the Tutoring Center, on the Service Council, as a teaching assistant in the School of Religion, and as a student worker and group fitness instructor at Lee’s Campus Recreation Center. Vance, an exercise science major from South-East Missouri, has been active in the Student Leadership Council for three years. He has been involved in the planning of Urban Outreach experiences and other service opportunities such as Operation Christmas Child and Great Strides. He has served in the Leonard Center as a student worker for the statewide VISTA leader. Mathias-Dickerson has been an assistant professor of art since 2011. Her drawing classes traditionally visit area assisted living facilities to draw portraits of the residents as part of her service integrated teaching. The students mat and frame the portraits and give them to the residents or their families.

Beims and Vance are the tenth group of students to receive this award, while Mathias-Dickerson is the sixth faculty member to be honored.

—Jillian Ellis

MOFFETT DEVELOPS Behavioral App

Dr. Kimberly Moffett, associate professor of special education at Lee, recently developed BehaveWrite, a behavior data collection system and application (app).

The app is designed to work with teachers and faculty and other personnel to improve behavior decisions in schools and other professional environments.

She found that teachers had difficulty keeping up with data in their classrooms when that data was kept on paper.

The program, which was officially completed in the fall, launched at a conference in Florida in January, and was part of a larger expo at the International Council for Exceptional Children Convention in Philadelphia.

—Britain Miethe
Susan Rogers, PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH, PASSES AWAY

Lee University professor of British Literature, Dr. Susan Rogers, passed away on May 4, 2014, after waging a brave battle with ALS, or Lou Gehrig’s disease. She was 49.

She had been a member of the Lee faculty for 20 years. She received the Bachelor of Arts degree from Lee in 1986, followed by a master’s degree and a doctoral degree from the University of Alabama.

“Susan was a superb classroom teacher, a caring professor who invested freely in her students’ lives, as well as a beloved friend to so many colleagues,” stated President Conn. “She will always be remembered with great respect and love, not just by those who worked closely with her, but also by many other close friends from all across campus who have drawn inspiration and joy from her courage and faith.”

Dr. Jean Eledge, chair of the Department of Languages and Literature said, “Susan Rogers exemplified what it means to quietly, deeply impact others with her intellect, her wisdom, and her life. Her students and her colleagues understood and respected the authenticity of who she was and what she stood for in every area. She impacted us in life-changing ways while a professor and colleague at Lee; she inspired us, and will continue to do so, with the way that she lived out her life with unwavering courage, dignity, strength, and faith.”

Funeral services were held May 6, 2014, at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church where she was a member and served as a reader.

PHILLIP MOREHEAD Retires AFTER 48 YEARS

This spring the School of Music celebrated the work of Professor Philip Morehead as he retired after 48 years of teaching at Lee University.

Morehead came to Lee College in August of 1966 and quickly became an integral partner, building a dynamic program of musical training and performance. To many, he is known as “The Theory Man,” but he is also credited with Lee’s first Jazz Band in 1978.

Morehead was an accomplished performer and teacher of trumpet, serving for many years as the principal trumpet of the Chattanooga Symphony. In recent years, he also served the School of Music as instrumental coordinator and teacher of music theory and brass methods.

The celebration of his work culminated with a retirement dinner on May 12 with colleagues and friends. At the dinner, Dr. Philip Thomas, chair of the Department of Musicianship Studies, announced the establishment of the Philip Morehead Scholarship Fund. This endowed scholarship will serve as a lasting tribute to this outstanding teacher, mentor, and friend.

—William Green, Dean, School of Music

Faculty Facts

MORGAN NAMED Director of Library Services

Dr. Louis F. Morgan has been named director of Library Services by the Lee University Board of Directors, effective July 1. Morgan replaces Barbara McCullough who is retiring after 45 years on the Lee library staff.

McCullough began her career at Lee in 1969, and served many years as assistant director of public services. Named interim director in 2007, she has been the director of the Squires Library for the past six years.

Morgan, a native of Morgantown, Mississippi, has spent virtually his entire professional career at Lee, starting at 10 hours per week as a student assistant in the Dixon Research Center. He graduated from Lee in 1998 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and communications. In 1999, he was hired as an archivist in the research center. He joined the Lee faculty in 2003 after earning a Master of Science degree in information science. In 2009, he was awarded a Ph.D. in organizational leadership from Regent University where he was also named outstanding graduate in the program.

In 2003, Morgan moved into the librarian post, where his initial role was helping develop the library instruction program and the library’s public relations. In 2008, he was promoted to oversee the library’s various public services departments and staff, and in 2010, became assistant director of Library Services.

In 2007, he was recognized with the Excellence in Advising Award, one of Lee’s three academic awards presented to faculty. He also received the 2010 Charles Haas Award for his new book of poems, A Lexicon of Lost Words, and was elected to a four-year term as Southern Regent for Sigma Tau Delta.

The book is based on words from the Oxford English Dictionary that have fallen out of use. Brown found the words while reading Ammon Shea’s book, Reading the OED.

As one of the six regents within the Sigma Tau Delta system, Brown’s duties will include promoting the development and activities of the society within its specific regions. As members of the Board of Directors, regents serve on standing and ad hoc committees, act as liaisons between the chapters of their regions and the central office, and work with their student representative and associate student representative to encourage chapter development and activities, and assume responsibility for over 850 active chapters.

Brown is the only member of Lee’s faculty to be awarded each of three major faculty awards: Excellence in Advising (’10), Excellence in Scholarship (’11), and Excellence in Teaching (’12).

BROWN RECEIVES AWARD Elected to Position

Dr. Kevin Brown, professor of English at Lee, was recently honored by Snake Nation Press and Sigma Tau Delta, an international English honor society. Brown received the Violet Reed Haas Award for his new book of poems, A Lexicon of Lost Words, and was elected to a four-year term as Southern Regent for Sigma Tau Delta.

Funeral services were held May 6, 2014, at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church where she was a member and served as a reader.

—Jillian Ellis

Susan Rogers, PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH, PASSES AWAY

Lee University professor of British Literature, Dr. Susan Rogers, passed away on May 4, 2014, after waging a brave battle with ALS, or Lou Gehrig’s disease. She was 49.

She had been a member of the Lee faculty for 20 years. She received the Bachelor of Arts degree from Lee in 1986, followed by a master’s degree and a doctoral degree from the University of Alabama.

“Susan was a superb classroom teacher, a caring professor who invested freely in her students’ lives, as well as a beloved friend to so many colleagues,” stated President Conn. “She will always be remembered with great respect and love, not just by those who worked closely with her, but also by many other close friends from all across campus who have drawn inspiration and joy from her courage and faith.”

Dr. Jean Eledge, chair of the Department of Languages and Literature said, “Susan Rogers exemplified what it means to quietly, deeply impact others with her intellect, her wisdom, and her life. Her students and her colleagues understood and respected the authenticity of who she was and what she stood for in every area. She impacted us in life-changing ways while a professor and colleague at Lee; she inspired us, and will continue to do so, with the way that she lived out her life with unwavering courage, dignity, strength, and faith.”

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—William Green, Dean, School of Music
One of my new favorite quotes from Dr. Seuss relates to an amazing journey I just completed with some incredible Clevelanders, most of whom are Lee alumni. The quote says, “Don’t cry because it’s over; smile because it happened.” I cried when this trip was over, but those tears represented joy, accomplishment, new friendships, and most of all, having had a sense of purpose in showing God’s love to so many people.

The journey began about a year ago when a small group of local runners felt we had to do something in response to the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings. We wanted to show solidarity for the running community and let the folks in Boston know we felt their pain through this tragedy. We would stand with them united, showing the world that the “Boston Strong” spirit resonates in all of America.

The idea that materialized was for a group of runners (26 to represent the 26 miles of a marathon) to raise money and deliver it in person, running nonstop, relay style, from Cleveland, Tennessee, to Boston. After months of planning, the Run Now Relay began on the Lee campus with a ceremonial launch from the annual 65 Roses 5K on the morning of April 12. For the next eight days, five vans of runners played “leap-frog” through nine states, 72 cities, and just over 1,000 miles to present checks to two charities. In addition, at the end of the relay, four of the runners participated in the Boston Marathon, completing the epic journey.

The journey was filled with midnight runs through the countryside or getting lost on the streets of cities like Philadelphia; Washington, D.C.; and New York. Despite the challenges, what arose from this group and from so many individuals we met along the way was a spirit of goodness in the hearts of people in America. After eight days of nonstop running, the relay reached its “finish line,” which was actually the start line of the Boston Marathon in Hopkinton, Mass. Around noon on April 19, the final group of runners came into view and was joined for the last stretch by the entire Run Now Relay team. Dress in our iconic “highlighter” shirts, hugs were exchanged, media interviews were conducted, and group photos were snapped, followed by the first of two presentations to charities for which we raised over $65,000.

My story continued as three of us had been chosen to represent the Boston-based nonprofit, Dream Big! As the running of the 118th Boston Marathon two days later. A fourth runner from the team was former Lee cross-country runner, Johnny Clemons, who qualified for the race. I was proud to be one of the four to represent the runners who had journeyed with us on the first 1000 plus miles, completing this entire journey on the streets of downtown Boston where a year earlier, tragedy struck.

The emotions of crossing the finish line are very hard to explain. However, I’m not sad because it’s over; I’m smiling because this journey happened, and I was one very small part of an incredible group of people. It was truly an amazing journey of being able to show God’s love to a broader community.
EMOTIONS APLENTY

By Kyle Page

When the question was posed to the group of runners about participating in this unique opportunity, I quickly said, “I’m in.” Those words were unrepeatable at that point; however, I didn’t think it would really come to fruition. As months passed, the reality of the journey began to clear. The Run Now Relay Team was running to Boston. As our journey began, I found out most of our team members had more than just running in common. We were also alumni of Lee University. We were sent off with cheers, music, celebration, and spirit. Everything seemed to be perfect, and we hoped all the training and effort would pay off.

During the next eight days, I was faced with a series of emotions. My group did not have the opportunity to sleep the first night of the trip. We had trained to run six miles per day for eight days, but we had not factored in a lack of sleep, elevation changes, rain, sleet, or cold weather. Despite exhaustion, the “Purple Pavement Pounders,” were full of drive and purpose.

About midway, we were striding through Washington, D.C. By this point, everyone was tired, weary, sore, irritable, stinky, but blessed—blessed to have the opportunity to run to Boston for a cause that transcended any one of us as individuals. At this point, we had raised around $60,000, which crushed our initial goal of $50,000. After a brief pause for some festivities in the nation’s capital, the relay began again headed up the Atlantic coastline.

Unlike Virginia, as we ran north, it seemed as if the cities came together and people were everywhere, which meant that crowds grew and opportunities to share our story became greater. We traveled through places I had never seen and came in contact with people from every walk of life. We even had the awesome experience of being featured on Good Morning America. As runners of the relay encountered many conditions, but most were rural roads along shoulders. Pictured is Duane Goff as he takes a road in north-central Tennessee near Daisy Creek/State Park.

Boston grew closer, the shouts began to ring, “Boston Strong; Tennessee Tough!” The looks in the eyes of others grew more confident with each stride.

It seems impossible to explain the feeling when we arrived in Hopkinton—26.4 miles from Boston. Our team had arrived and achieved our goal! The emotions of a year of planning, fundraising, training, and hurting all came to a head. It was worth every stride of the way.

Back in Cleveland two weeks removed from the experience, I found myself in conversations with people asking me: “What did you take away from this experience?” I still find myself getting choked up every time I think about the kindhearted people we encountered along the way. We had generous sponsors of our vans, drinks, and food. All the news affiliates that carried our story allowed the donations to grow. If not for these supporters and many others, we never would have been able to make the journey happen.

BOSTON STRONG, TENNESSEE TOUGH!

To learn more about Run Now Relay, including access to hundreds of photos, media coverage, and other items, visit www.runnowrelay.org.
Scholars will retain the scholarship for the duration of their time in the School of Nursing, provided they demonstrate satisfactory academic progress. Beginning this fall, Lee will offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree that includes a traditional four-year track, as well as a one-year track for registered nurses (RN) who are already working professionals. By 2018, the School of Nursing plans to have more than 240 students and a full cadre of faculty members. The nursing school will be located initially in the Science Math Complex with plans for a new building by the fall of 2016.

The primary objective of the Tucker Foundation is to provide financial support to nonprofit organizations that produce in young people the character and skills required to live a productive and happy life, along with organizations that conserve essential elements of our natural environment forever.

—Jillian Ellis

Despite his success, Wallace said he never questioned whether he needed to come back to Lee. He simply needed the pathway the DAL offered. In fact, he has already committed to continuing at Lee in the Master’s in Ministry Studies online program.

“I didn’t need a diploma to be a pastor, but I needed this experience to take my church to another level of effectiveness in ministry,” Wallace said. “I made Kingdom connections in my second educational wave that I will have throughout my life—friends and mentors who continue to pour into and shape my life. I am a better leader because of my Lee experience.”

For more information, contact Dennis Purvis, director of Enrollment Services, Lee University Division of Adult Learning dal@leeuniversity.edu

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Lady Flames Finish First IN FIRST YEAR OF NCAA PLAY

In their first year of NCAA Division II and Gulf South Conference (GSC) play, the Lady Flames finished with a 25-6 overall mark and a first-place finish (18-2) in conference play. Lee scored a 49-34 victory at No. 16 Delta State University to take over first place on Feb. 13. From there, the Lady Flames would never look back as they finished the GSC portion of the schedule with 14 consecutive wins to close the regular season atop the conference standings.

Senior Hollie German led the way for the Lady Flames in their first year of NCAA Division II and Gulf South Conference (GSC) play, the Lady Flames finished with a 25-6 overall mark and a first-place finish (18-2) in conference play. For the second straight year, the Lady Flames were ranked No. 1 seed in the NCCAA National Tournament, which was held in Winona Lake, Ind. The Lady Flames defeated Grace College, 66-58 in the opening round, and outlasted Roberts Wesleyan, 72-70 in the semifinals. The victory would set up a fourth meeting with rival Union in the NCCAA Title Game. Union would pull away late to seal a 73-64 victory. For the second straight year, the Lady Flames finished as National Runner-up.

Despite one region loss, Lee would qualify as the No. 1 seed in the NCCAA National Tournament, which was held in Winona Lake, Ind. The Lady Flames defeated Grace College, 66-58 in the opening round, and outlasted Roberts Wesleyan, 72-70 in the semifinals. The victory would set up a fourth meeting with rival Union in the NCCAA Title Game. Union would pull away late to seal a 73-64 victory. For the second straight year, the Lady Flames finished as National Runner-up.

The foursome won 43 straight home games and saw tremendous success in postsea-son play as they finished as NAIA National Runner-up (2013) and NCCAA National Runner-up (2014) in consecutive seasons.

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led by senior utility player Ana Coscorrosa, the Lee softball team wrapped up its first year of NCAA Division II play with a 25-24 mark, finishing at 13-14 in the Gulf South Conference (GSC). Lee ended regular season play, winning seven of 10 and scoring conference series wins over No. 20 North Alabama, as well as West Alabama, Union, and West Georgia.

A big reason for the success was the consistent production of Coscorrosa. The lefty slugger led the team with a .471 average while drilling 10 home runs, along with 73 RBIs. Coscorrosa ended her four-year career as the all-time leader in batting average (.451), hits (275) and RBIs (231) in school history.

A final award came at the end of the season as Ana was named National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) Player of the Year. The senior from Zulia, Vene-

COSCORROSA SETS School Records

zuela received the honor a day after being named to the NFCA NCAA Division II South Region First Team. Sophomores Amanda Lynn and Lexie Dean provided a spark at the top of the order for Lee. Junior Dominique Hannah also appeared in every contest, while sophomore Angie Hughes led the Lady Flames with 16 victories against 13 losses.

The Lady Flames entered postseason play by traveling to Clinton, Miss. to take part in the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) Mid-East Regional Tournament. The Lady Flames came up just short in the championship as they fell to Union by a final score of 5-4.

The 2014 campaign marked the twelfth consecutive season of 20-plus victories for the Lee softball program. In her 12 seasons at the helm, Head Coach Emily Russell has compiled a 469-191 (.716) record.

IN FIRST YEAR OF NCAA PLAY

First

Lee's success over the last four years. The senior class included Myriah Illes joined German in playing key roles in the NCCAA National Tournament, which was held in Winona Lake, Ind. The Lady Flames defeated Grace College, 66-58 in the opening round, and outlasted Roberts Wesleyan, 72-70 in the semifinals. The victory would set up a fourth meeting with rival Union in the NCCAA Title Game. Union would pull away late to seal a 73-64 victory. For the second straight year, the Lady Flames finished as National Runner-up.

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Butler Shootout Raises Funds FOR ATHLETICS

The foursome of Dustin Gill and Andy and Jack Butler Shootout at Chatata Valley Golf Club in Cleveland.

The team of Tom Maupin, Al Miller, Jeff Davis, and Mike Usery finished in second place with a 57 and won a scorecard playoff over the third place of Jeff Holden, Billy Thacker, Jordia Waller, and Clint Taylor, who also shot a 57.

Overall, 24 teams participated in the annual event to help support the Lee University athletic program. "What a great day it was for Lee Athletics," said Lee’s head golf coach, John Maupin. “I am always impressed by how well supported Lee University and our Athletic Department is...it says a lot about the history and future here when you have so many people willing to be involved. It’s awesome to have so many of our supporters gathered in one place, and enjoying time together on the course. We couldn’t have asked for a better day, and I am already looking forward to another great tournament next year.”

Zack Riggins fires away as George Nerren looks on during play in the annual Stanley Butler Memorial Golf Tournament.
One of the nation’s top husband and wife coaching teams will not be working together at court-side when the 2014 Lee University volleyball season opens this fall. Head Coach Andrea Hudson will begin her twenty-fourth year with the Lady Flames, and her husband, Kevin, has been by her side during 23 of their 24 years.

Kevin Hudson recently announced he will give up his assistant coaching duties and will be, “Putting more effort into the (Lee) recreation program and helping develop the students in that program, along with more time on the home front. There are a lot of reasons for the move, both professional and personal, but the decision is really about personal things that I want to devote more attention to.”

Together, the Hudsons have posted one of the nation’s top husband and wife coaching tandems, and Cavett embraced coaching students who were standouts in the classroom. He helped men’s and women’s tennis teams have winning records for six consecutive years. Cavett plans to continue teaching tennis, and he emphasized his appreciation for the many student athletes he has worked with and the success and friendship they have enjoyed over the years. He also thanked the administration for its support.

“Coach Cavett has been a mainstay of our tennis programs for the last 17 years,” commented Lee Athletic Director Larry Carpenter. “His teams were known for achieving a high level of academic success while being competitive on the courts. He has been an integral part of our Athletic Department, and we wish him the best.”

Lee President Paul Conn stated: “Tony has been an integral part of our tennis tradition, and as he leaves, we are saying goodbye to a wonderful colleague, and led our tennis program through a period of outstanding success. He will always be a big part of the Lee University athletic tradition, and as he leaves, we are saying goodbye to a wonderful friend who cares deeply about students and the sport of tennis.”

During his 17 seasons at Lee, his clubs posted a combined record of 300-252 (146-137 men, 154-116 women). Both teams had winning records for six consecutive years. Cavett embraced coaching students who were standouts in the classroom. He helped mentor 42 NAIA Scholar Athletes and produced one NAIA First Team All-American.
**BASEBALL FINISHES SECOND IN NATIONALS; Bales Captures Award**

The Flames recently completed their 14th straight winning baseball season with a second-place finish against Fresno Pacific University in the NCCAA World Series in Mason, Ohio. Overall, Lee recorded a 37-17 record and placed fourth in its first year of competition in the powerful Gulf South Conference and in NCAA Division II play. Mark Brew’s club won 12 of its final 14 contests.

Not only did the 2014 team score 37 wins, but it also walked away with several individual honors. Lee senior pitcher Jeremy Bales was named the winner of the NCCAA’s top baseball award, the Hank Burbridge Outstanding Potential Christian Leadership Award. Bales also enjoyed a superb year on the mound, being a major part of Lee’s winning record, the NCCAA Mid-East Region title, and runner-up in the World Series. “This award exceeds above any other award that I could ever win because it is an award for spiritual leadership, baseball, and academics,” Bales explained. “I have a passion for the game of baseball and love every part of it. If I can serve Jesus Christ and play baseball at the same time, then that sounds like a pretty good deal to me.”

Senior shortstop Josh Silver wrapped up two superb seasons and earned a slot on the World Series All-Tournament Team. Jeremy Stawychny (8-4 and with a 2.39 earned run average) was selected second-team NCCAA All-American. Senior Derrick Pitt batted .338, pacing the Flames in home runs (4), hits (67), triples (3) and tied teammate Zachery Hawkins with 41 runs batted in and 37 runs scored.

Coach Brew was honored after his team defeated Delta State (Miss.) on April 5. The 5-3 Gulf South win was Brew’s 400th in his eighth year as head coach of the Flames.

**INDOOR, OUTDOOR TRACK TEAMS NOTCH Running Wins**

Chayce Bryan and the Men’s 4x800 meter relay team highlighted Lee’s Indoor Track season, bringing home a pair of national championships competing at the NCCAA National Championships in Bourbonnais, Ill. Bryan took home the top honor in the 800 meter run with a time of 2:16.65. Bryan anchored the final leg of the relay team, joined by Brianna Prugh, Emily Bryan, and Jessica Childers. The ladies finished in second place with a time of 9:35.25. The Flames also garnered championship honors with the performance of the 4x800 meter relay team of Justin Knuth, Terris Elliott, Adam Gullette, and Emmanuel Kipchumba. With a time of 8:05.23 the foursome took first place a full three seconds ahead of runner-up Olivet Nazarene University.

Coach Caleb Morgan reflected on the championship performances of his runners saying, “I’m really pleased and grateful to get my first national championship as a head coach. I just can’t say enough about how strong those guys looked out there.”

With two national championship performances, the Lee Indoor Track teams enjoyed their best season in just the fourth year of intercollegiate competition.

Outdoors, Mike Walk-er earned his second NCCAA All-American honor to run Lee University’s total to six in three events at the 2014 NCCAA Track & Field Championship at Barron Stadium.

Walker improved upon his qualifying time (9:21.56) by six seconds, finished second in the 3,000-meter steeplechase, and gained All-American status for the second time in two days. “Mike ran a great race, finishing in a new personal and school record,” Morgan said. “I couldn’t be prouder of what he has accomplished in his time at Lee. He came out of high school as an above average runner and flourished in the last year and a half, earning three All-American honors and graduating with three school records.”

Earlier, Walker ran the first leg with Adam Gullette, Terris Elliott, and Emmanuel Kipchumba, as well as the final pieces of the 4x800 meter relay. The foursome earned All-American honors with a second-place finish.

**FLAMES CLOSE CHALLENGING NCAA Debut Season**

The Lee men’s basketball team finished their first season of competition in NCAA Division II and the Gulf South Conference (GSC) with a 10-16 overall mark. They finished 6-14 in the rugged GSC. The Flames had early successes, opening conference play on Dec. 16 by defeating West Florida, 82-76 to open up the GSC era with a victory. Lee would score another milestone victory three days later with a 72-59 victory over No. 25 Valdosta State. The contest marked the first victory against a NCAA ranked team in pro

Coach Tommy Brown would also rely heavily on teammate Zachery Hawkins with 41 runs batted in and 37 runs scored.

Jeremy Bales fires a pitch for the Flames. The senior was a leader on and off the field.

Mike Walker was a standout for the Flames in the NCCAA National Outdoor Track meet that was held in Rome, Ga.
“For myself, I always write about Dublin, because if I can get to the heart of Dublin, I can get to the heart of all the cities of the world. In the particular is contained the universal.”

The great twentieth-century Irish writer James Joyce penned these words about the city of his birth and the setting for most of his writing. He felt that, by finding meaning in a specific, singular story and place, we can learn something about ourselves that defies national, ethnic, and cultural boundaries. In a way, the process he is describing resembles the goals behind Lee University’s global perspectives program. Students can choose from dozens of opportunities to travel into widely varied cultures, but we require that they take at least one trip, with the hope that the particular trip can show them something universal about understanding other cultures.

The Ireland spring break trip took its seventh run to the Emerald Isle in early March. All majors are invited on this annual ten-day trip, touring the three provinces of the Republic of Ireland. The group travels by coach, visiting the busy city of Dublin, the country charm of Killarney, the university town of Galway, and Connacht’s quiet coastal city of Westport, meeting local residents, walking among ancient structures, and learning about what makes Ireland unique. The experience includes an investigation into Irish history and Irish writers like Joyce, to discover Ireland’s influence on Western society.

Each student is required to interact with native residents and to write reflective journal entries and case study reports from each locale. In addition to that, students take a healthy dose of museum touring and sightseeing. So many historical landmarks and stunning vistas are concentrated into that one island that it is impossible to see it all. We try to make the most of our ten days. This year’s trip had unbelievably sunny weather. The only inclement conditions we encountered were on the face of Croagh Patrick—a mountain and pilgrimage site outside Westport—where sixty-mile-per-hour winds forced our hiking group to turn back a little over half way to the top. The rest of the time was calm and bright. From the cliffs of Dun Angus on the Aran Islands to the famous drive around Slea Head on the Ring of Kerry, we had lovely countryside and seaside views for a week, as though we had stumbled into a storybook. We entered a bustling Dublin near the end of the trip when the city was gearing up for St. Patrick’s Day. Also in Dublin, the group experienced unforgettable moments, from touring the cavernous Trinity College Library and its Book of Kells exhibit, to watching a gaelic hurling match between Dublin and county rival Kilkenny.

Perhaps the words of one student from this year’s trip can help to describe the journey on which we hope to launch all of our students. Before departure, junior Amanda Miller wrote:

“This will be my first time leaving the country, so that adds another sense of wonder and amazement to this whole experience. Time will not be wasted. I want to spend every moment possible soaking in everything I can experience of the different culture. Seeing more of God’s wonderful creation, feeling even more alive and seeing that there is more than just this little American bubble will be wonderful. After our return, she said, “Thinking back on it, it seems like a dream… but I am thankful it wasn’t and that those memories are ones to cherish.”

Brian Conn is director of Public Information at Lee University.
Dee Yoder ’80 lives in Mansfield, Ohio where she works with Mission to Amish People as a volunteer and formerly wrote the Amish newsletter for the organization. She recently wrote a fictional book, The Miting, based on stories of former Amish who leave their communities to begin anew. Their home was the recent focus of two PBS documentaries on the Amish. Dee began writing again at the age of 50 and recently signed a three-book contract with the Amish series through Kregel Publishing.

Jeff McFalls ’91 passed away on March 8, 2014, after a lengthy battle with lung cancer. At the time of his death, he pastored Medart Assembly of God in Crawfordville, Fla., where just 24 hours before his death, he performed a wedding ceremony. He leaves behind a wife of nearly 25 years, Libby Brown McFalls ’92, and three children.

Patrick and Jodie Swinson Wooten ’92 and Robert ’92 and Marla Nash Sharp ’93 and their families reunited in Irving, Tex. at Grace Pointe Church where the Wootens have pastored for 16 years to celebrate the future of Bridges, a non-profit started by the Sharps and other Lee alumni who support several schools and other missions efforts in Honduras.

Stanley Smith ’53 lives in Anderson, S.C. with his wife, Earlene, ’53. Both graduated from Lee Academy as valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively. Stan retired in 1997 after 25 years as an assistant vice president of credit and financing for a major lumber supplier. They attend High Praises Church of God. Last November, the Smiths celebrated 60 years of marriage.

Bill Sheeks ’54 passed away March 19, 2014. He was a former state youth leader, state overseer, and assistant general overseer for the Church of God. He was retired and living in Cleveland, Tenn. Dr. Sheeks was married to Eleanor, and they had two children, Cheryl Stansky ’79 and Randy ’87, who is a faculty member at Lee. During his tenure as an assistant general overseer, he served as executive liaison to the Lee Board of Directors.

Richard Beaty ’68 of East Franklin Township, Pa., passed away on March 5, 2014. At the time of his death, Rev. Beaty was pastor of the Cornerstone Assembly of God in West Kittanning, Pa., and was president of the Kittanning Ministerial Association. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn.

Roland Charles Stone ’72 passed away on November 8, 2013, in Smithfield, N.C. He retired in 2006, after decades of pastoring several churches across North Carolina. Upon his retirement, he founded the Roland C. Stone Humanitarian Foundation International. His surviving wife, Jean, their daughter Melody Mitchell ’83, and grandchildren, will carry on the work of the foundation.

Ethan Raath ’74 and his wife, Teresa, ’74, live in Denver Colo. As owner/consultant of Highwire Leadership (www.highwireleadership.com), Ethan provides leadership development, coaching, and consulting. Before moving to Denver, he was a professor in the Religion and Communications Departments at Xavier University, and he is now an adjunct professor at Regis University, teaching courses in faith and justice. A Presbyterian minister for 36 years, he retired in May. Teresa is a registered nurse at St. Joseph’s Hospital.

Jannese Woodard Moore (’78) took Torch to Le chateau d’ Augustusbury in Germany, where she recently traveled with a mission team. Dr. Moore and her husband, Jim, live in Seymour, TN and both work for the Sevier County School System. They have two children.
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If you are headed to an exotic location or milestone activity, take Torch along and send us your photo with it. Torch loves to travel!

Jonathan Hurt ’95 of the First Special Operations Wing was recently awarded the Air Force’s Military Chaplain Association (MCA) Distinguished Service Award for 2013. The award recognizes ministry excellence of chaplains of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Veterans Affairs, and Civil Air Patrol. Jonathan serves as Deputy Wing Chaplain in the First Special Operations Wing in Hurlburt Field, Fla. He has two daughters.

Darren Schalk ’01, a resident of Cleveland, Tenn., recently released his debut nonfiction book, Dear God, We Need To Talk, through Orlando-based publisher Charisma House. Subtitled, Wrestling With God on Questions of Life and Faith, the book is an exploration of God and faith through the lens of a young Christian leader. Darren is curriculum editor for the Church of God of Prophecy International Offices and associate editor of One Accord Resources, Inc. He and his wife Kristi have three children.

Charli Crawford Duff ’06 is the head softball coach at Ardmore Senior High School in Ardmore, Okla. Her husband, Derek, teaches at Ardmore Middle School and also serves as the pastor at Mary Niblack Road Baptist Church.

Laura Feltner ’07 lives in Dayton, Ohio, where she recently earned certification as a pharmacy technician.

Emma Perret ’08 lives with her husband, Jason, on the Big Island in Hawaii where she works as a third-grade teacher at Makua Lani Christian Academy.

Jonathan Hurt ’95

Darren Schalk ’01

Charli Crawford Duff ’06

Laura Feltner ’07

Emma Perret ’08

Dear alumni,

How are you doing? Did you get into that grad program? How are you doing? Did you get into that grad program? How are you doing? Did you get into that grad program? How are you doing?

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