OPENING THOUGHTS FROM PRESIDENT PAUL CONN

Since the late 1980s, thousands of Lee students have been part of “Celebration!” events on campus. There have been eleven or twelve of these, depending on whether the first one—in 1988—is included in the count. The name itself began two years later, with the title “Celebration ’90” and the basic outlines of the event have been in place ever since. We’ve done these every two years, with a couple of hiccups between events, and the most recent edition, “Celebration 2016,” is described in these pages. So if you were a student at anytime since 1988, chances are good that you were part of one of these massive campus parties. The event always features a program in Conn Center with a mass choir and orchestra, lots of V.I.P guests and donors, visits from representatives of graduating classes from years gone by, who march in cap and gown with the faculty and board. Usually, there is a building dedicated and ceremonial ribbons cut, sometimes for more than one new building. And there is always lots of food—a fancy dinner for our guests and a stand-up luncheon buffet which includes students and faculty. Hundreds of students are involved in each Celebration. On many occasions, students have stood shoulder-to-shoulder in a “human wall” to cheer for the guest as they exit Conn Center en route to the luncheon. There is a pretty cool five-minute video of the 2016 wall at https://vimeo.com/leeuniversity/celebration. The idea for Lee’s Celebration events was hatched in 1988, when administrators here at Lee were studying the book College, which was written by the late Ernest Boyer, one of America’s leading voices in higher education. That book made a major point that successful colleges were those that had developed a “culture of celebration.” That idea resonated with us, and someone recalled that the presidential inauguration, two years earlier, had been such a natural occasion, and regretted that we couldn’t repeat that event. As a president in office less than two years, I appreciated their point but commented that it was a sacrifice I wasn’t willing to make. So the idea evolved from there: why not an inauguration-like event, without the nuisance of a new president? So, our Celebration program was born, and almost thirty years later, it has become a campus institution. Students enjoy it, occasionally poke a little fun at it (you might enjoy watching a lighthearted look at Celebration 2012 at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1hv0R9oCXxA), but always remember it.

CELEBRATING GOD’S PROVISION

Hundreds of friends, alumni and special guests flooded the Lee campus in September to formally dedicate the School of Nursing and recognize the blessings of the latest capital campaign, Find Us Faithful. Meet some of those who helped make it successful.

THIRTY YEARS // PRESIDENT CONN

The student body, leadership, Church of God, and City of Cleveland all took the opportunity to honor Paul and Darlia Conn for 30 years at the presidential helm. Read about some of the unique events, gifts, recognitions, and the list of amazing accomplishments from the three decades.

LADIES DAY AT HOMECOMING

Two of Lee’s women’s service clubs celebrated milestone birthdays and called on their alumni to help celebrate. There were debuts of a new coach, a block party, and improv shows…and nine alumni honored by their departments.

CHAPMAN HONORED AS DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

Read about Nathan Chapman ’01, an outstanding alum who has collaborated with some of the most famous names in the music industry.

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES: CUBA

In the final installment of this series, Dr. Dewayne Knight writes about the tenth year the athletic training faculty at Lee have led a team of students to the island nation for medical missions and athletic participation.
LEE UNIVERSITY TORCH // WINTER 2016

NEW PARTNERSHIPS
The final two years of the Find Us Faithful campaign consisted of gifts from dependable friends, but also some new partners. Celebration 2016 called attention to the highlights of the five-year Find Us Faithful campaign, and particularly the accomplishments since Celebration 2014.

The morning’s events consisted of 40 “Celebration Seminars” across campus, followed by a service of celebration in Conn Center at 10:30. Complete with a Celebration Choir and an address from President Conn, the day’s events concluded with a walk through a “wall” of cheering students leading to a festive spread of eats for everyone on the Sharp Pedestrian Mall.

THE GREEN FAMILY
David and Barbara Green lead one of America’s most successful family businesses. Along with their three children—Mart (pictured), Steve, and Darsee Lett—they have built Hobby Lobby into a multibillion-dollar retail giant, with over 600 stores around the country.

Based in Oklahoma City, the Green family has gained a reputation for operating its businesses in a way that reflects the family’s Christian beliefs. David Green has been quoted as saying “We’re Christians, and we run our business on Christian principles.” The family has also demonstrated a willingness to take public positions against regulations which infringe on their religious liberty, and the Greens have become a leading force within the Evangelical Movement in public policy issues.

The Greens have a reputation for generosity; they are major supporters of a wide range of charities, Christian ministries, and nonprofit agencies, both in Oklahoma and in many other parts of the nation and the world. Although they have always deflected the media’s efforts to discuss their personal net worth, Forbes magazine ranks David Green as among the 100 wealthiest individuals in America.

The Green family has responded to Lee University’s vision for a nursing program by providing a significant gift to fund the construction of the new building. The family leaders have taken a personal interest in the work here at Lee, and Lee University is deeply grateful for this new partnership, and for the generosity and confidence in the university shown by this remarkable family.

RICHARD AND BARBARA GABY
The Richard and Barbara Gaby Foundation, based in the suburbs of Atlanta, has provided major financial support for the Find Us Faithful campaign and the development of Lee’s nursing program. The Gaby family are members of Perimeter Church, and are strong supporters of Christ-centered agencies, including educational institutions at every level. They are also active in political affairs, and established the Center for Policy Studies at the Georgia Family Council. Barb is a member of the Board of Directors of Heritage Foundation.

The Gabys are parents of six children, all of them home-schooled. Their daughter Rachel graduated from Lee in May 2016, earning cum laude distinction in double majors in history and humanities.

PAT CARROLL
Patricia Carroll was the first woman to serve on the Lee University Board of Directors. She was first appointed to the board in 2000, and has become a leader on the board, chairing several committees and bringing a trusted and influential voice to board deliberations.

Ms. Carroll is a businesswoman who lives in Ft. Myers, Florida. She has owned and managed various hotel and rental properties in Florida and in Ohio, where she lived and worked for many years.

Ms. Carroll attended Lee Academy, and has always been a deeply involved and supportive alumna. She was one of the early and substantial supporters of Lee’s efforts to add nursing to the curriculum. The lecture hall in the new School of Nursing building was named in her honor by vote of her Board colleagues, and was dedicated in a small private ceremony on September 29.

SUMMERFIELD JOHNSTON/TUCKER FOUNDATION
The Tucker Foundation has quietly become one of the most highly respected foundations in the Greater Chattanooga region. The foundation was established in 1996 by Summerfield Johnston, Jr., a prominent Chattanooga business leader and well-known philanthropist. Led by its president, The Tucker Foundation makes grants primarily in this geographic area, and Mr. Johnston has been a leader within the world of Coca-Cola bottlers, and is a former CEO of Coca-Cola Enterprises.

Although his business and personal interests take him around the world, he maintains a home—the Bendabout Farm—in Bradley County, and takes a personal interest in the work of schools, libraries, the arts, and other agencies in the region.

One of his key goals in establishing the Tucker Foundation was to support organizations that would “produce in young people the character and skills required to live a productive and happy life.” The Tucker Foundation has previously established two substantial scholarships at Lee, and regularly supports the String Theory Chamber Music Series. For this prestigious foundation to step forward with a major grant for the School of Nursing building is an exciting new level of affirmation for Lee University.

The Find Us Faithful campaign will officially close on December 31, 2016. A complete report on the projects, donors, and funds raised will be reported in the spring 2017 issue of Torch.
To symbolize the continuity of the Lee University family through the years, the University selected sixty-two outstanding alumni, representing each of the classes from 1956 through 2016, and invited them to march with the faculty and board in the ceremony. We are honored that these distinguished women and men joined us to represent their Lee University classmates, and to share our dreams for the future.
Groups Honor Paul and Darlia Conn on 30 Years of Presidency

On August 1, 2016, Dr. Paul Conn, who was the Lee College vice president for Institutional Advancement and a professor of psychology, was selected as the school’s 18th president. His appointment came on the heels of the election of President Lamar Vest to the Executive Committee of the Church of God at the denomination’s General Assembly held in Atlanta that year.

From that day forward, Lee’s growth trajectory has pointed nowhere but skyward. The list of accomplishments is best illustrated by the direct comparison of where Lee University is today as compared to 1986 (see chart this section).

To celebrate this miraculous 30-year period, several events took place over a two-month period this fall to mark the milestone. They included:

- **August 1, 2016**
  An intimate dinner gathering with Dr. and Mrs. Conn and close associates on the actual anniversary of his appointment.

- **CABINET RETREAT**
  President Conn and his cabinet leaders gathered for a time of celebration and appreciation.

- **“GREAT EIGHT” RETREAT**
  President Conn and the eight men who have served with him as “assistant to the President” traveled to Boston for a 48-hour “retreat.”

- **CHURCH OF GOD**
  President and Mrs. Conn were formally honored by the Church of God leadership.

- **CHARLES PAUL CONN DAY**
  September 16, 2016, was proclaimed “Dr. Charles Paul Conn Day” in the City of Cleveland, Tennessee.

- **TIME WITH THE LEE FAMILY**
  A celebration event with all faculty and staff, topped off with a concert in Conn Center.

- **STUDENTS PLAN IT ALL**
  Student leaders hosted a chapel service on September 27 in honor of Dr. and Mrs. Conn, complete with gift presentations and tributes. The chapel was followed by a stand-up buffet, featuring “Conn-inspired” food items.

- **A BLACK-TIE GALA**
  Dr. and Mrs. Conn were featured guests during a formal tribute event held the evening prior to Celebration 2016.

- **Celebration 2016**
  Six pages of the program during Celebration 2016 featured the highlights of Conn’s leadership from 1986 – 2016.

Celebration 2016 was the latest in a series of more than a dozen events of its type, dating back to the first of President Conn’s campus improvement projects, the dedication of the Vest Building, and Church Street pedestrian mall in 1988. Celebration events have followed, practically every two years, bringing us to 2016 and the remarkable progress that can be attributed to the leadership and vision of Dr. Paul Conn.
Most events of the weekend were of the traditional sense, such as the Friday night music festival, a drama production in the Dixon Center (this year’s audiences enjoyed Dracula for two performances), club reunions, organization booth displays, and Homecoming basketball games for men and women. A few more of those traditions have evolved over the last few years, including the Flame Walk, Blessing of the Couples, department breakfasts, and the subsequent honoring of successful alums in those departments.

Debuting this year was a School of Religion mini-conference, a Brief History of Lee, Short Film Showcase, improv show by Shanigans, and an all-Greek block party staged on the lawn of the lacrosse field in the shadow of the towering Forum—destined to be the campus landmark of the future.

The ladies of Sigma Nu Sigma were the last of the four original Greek clubs to celebrate their 50th anniversary at Lee’s Homecoming this year. More than 200 Sigma alums painted the campus royal blue as they held four events to commemorate their big “50th.”

Sigma began in the spring of 1966 by charter members Linda Lawrence Woods, Bennice Champion Wolfe, Marla Cleghorn Wilson, Linda Blevins Kie, Norma Bray Brown, Diane Plunkett, Marie Dover, Avannah Williams, and Sandi Hitch King. According to Sigma’s first president, Linda Lawrence Woods, Sigma was started to offer some different aspects of service to the community and the Lee campus that the other three Greek clubs did not offer. The club chose 1 Corinthians 13 as their scripture motto. Planning for this momentous event started two years ago with the formation of the Sigma Nu Sigma Alumni Association (SNSAA). The group chose Deb Abbott Leonard ’85 to lead the charge for the 50th. Leonard, along with her committee of excited alumni, started meeting in February of this year. The SNSAA and current club members worked closely together, which was very special for the alumni, as they got to know the current members of Sigma.

The ladies in blue started the weekend off with a dessert party on Friday night in the lobby of the Communications Building with lots of fellowship, desserts, laughter, and memorabilia. The most fun part of the evening was when Sigma “members only” were ushered into the auditorium for a look at induction, past and present. The evening culminated with the 200 alumni, plus the current club members, marching in tap formation to the Greek Block Party held at the new Greek Forum under construction near the new School of Nursing. Saturday morning over 300 Sigma sisters and brothers gathered for a drop-in continental breakfast with the focus being fellowship, of course, but also a service project. The ladies and gents in blue partnered with the Zion Project—an organization that rescues young girls out of human sex trafficking.

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Homecoming weekend marked 20 years of “Grace, Excellence, and Sisterhood” for Omega Alpha Phi. Alumni were included in every step of the club’s planning process of such an important milestone.

Friday night began with a softball game including current members and alumni. For many this brought back memories of cheering for their sisters to bring home the win.

On Saturday morning, club members gathered on the Pedestrian Mall to peruse old scrapbooks, take pictures with friends in front of the board, and chat with current members. By Saturday night, the club swapped their jerseys and jeans for their semi-formal attire, as they met for dinner in the Communications Building.

Although induction, campus events, dessert parties, and even the tap night outfits may have changed through the years, the reflections demonstrated a theme of the importance of service, accountability, and vulnerability. The evening’s program ended with a memorable fashion show that highlighted the changes in tap night outfits, athletic gear, and homemade shirts. Through-out the weekend current members and alumni were reminded of the rationale for the formation of Omega Alpha Phi and were challenged to continue the legacy of “Setting the Standard.”

—Tiffany Sawyer Brooks ’08

DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
Reba Terry

HISTORY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES
Jamie Carter (pictured with Jason Ward left)

BUSINESS
Matt Sharp

COMMUNICATION ARTS
Matt Young

NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS
Josh and Dianna Cooley Puhr

MUSIC
Ryan Fisher

RELIGION
Frank Nation (presented the award by Dr. Terry Cross, left)

LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
Ellen French (presented by Dr. Donna Summerlin, at podium)

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
Herb Cannon (center, with Dr. Bill Estes, left, and Dr. Ashley Smith)

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COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
Herb Cannon (center, with Dr. Bill Estes, left, and Dr. Ashley Smith)
NATHAN CHAPMAN was named the 2016 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year during Lee’s Homecoming on November 5. The award is the highest honor given by the university to a graduate who is making advancements in his or her career, while also embracing the values that Lee embodies. “Nathan is a brilliant role model as someone who has succeeded in something that many of our students aspire to do,” said Lee president, Dr. Paul Conn. “He knows who he is and takes his success with a grain of salt. We are proud of him and his career in the music industry.”

Chapman graduated from Lee in 2001 with a bachelor’s degree in English. He moved back to his hometown of Nashville and returned to his musical roots where he has become quite successful in the music industry. He is a studio producer, record producer, writer, and vocalist. Chapman’s early journey included works with world-renowned country star Taylor Swift. He has produced all five of her albums, and his work with Swift has earned him awards from the Academy of Country Music Association, American Music Awards, and the GRAMMYs, among other music award associations.

This year, Chapman won his third GRAMMY for Album of the Year for his production work on Swift’s latest album, “1989.” He has also produced various country artists and bands such as Keith Urban, Shania Twain, Dan + Shay, and Rascal Flatts. Among his accomplishments, Chapman has produced 17 Number One hits.

Nathan has also written popular songs such as country music’s Danus Rucker’s number one hit, “Homegrown Honey.” He works with Warner Chappell Music Publishing as a songwriter. Nathan credits his love of songwriting and songwriters as the main ingredient that drives his production work. That fondness for the craft shows in his over 30 major label cuts as a songwriter.

Last summer, Chapman released his debut album, “Revival,” and performed several cuts at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville. Along with producing and writing songs, Chapman has written and published a devotional, With God on the Hiking Trail, which relates his personal experiences in nature to Scripture.

“I am so honored to be the Alumnus of the Year,” Nathan stated. “I have been very blessed in my life, but I wouldn’t have these blessings today without the wonderful people of Lee University. When I completed my time as a student, I had a million decisions to make. They set me off on the right path, and I will always be grateful.”

—NAUDIA O’S TEEN

NATHAN CHAPMAN FACTS

HOMETOWN: Nashville

WIFE: Stephanie Chapman (married 15 years)

MAJOR: English (B.A.)

Describes himself as “musician, writer, artist, and music creator”

Sang his first commercial at 6 years old

Composed more than 30 songs for major labels

Sixteen No.1 songs as a producer

Achieved first No.1 hit as a songwriter in 2014

Signed a worldwide publishing agreement with Warner Chappell in 2016

Performed at the Grand Ole Opry in 2015

Multiplatinum-selling producer

Debut album released 2015: Revival

SEAGO NAMED HONORARY ALUMNUS

MICHAEL SEAGO was named the 2016 Honorary Alumnus at the President’s Circle Luncheon during Homecoming. A graduate of Baylor and Texas A&M, Seago also served as a captain in the U.S. Army, and has also held executive positions in several large companies. He transferred to Cleveland, Tennessee, in 1982 to be a senior project engineer for M&M Mars, Inc. Seago has served on the Lee faculty as an adjunct professor for business and computer programs. He is also a favorite Encore instructor in the program for senior citizens. He also serves on the board of directors for The Caring Place, a local nonprofit that provides food, clothing, social services, and offers diverse programs to help participants improve their lives.

“We look at Mike’s life, and we think that is the kind of person we wish had gone to Lee,” said President Paul Conn. “Mike has demonstrated qualities that Lee holds as extremely important. He represents a life well-lived.”

NATHAN CHAPMAN AWARDS

GRAMMY - 3

Album of the Year: Taylor Swift - Fearless

Best Country Album: Taylor Swift - Fearless

DOVE - 2

Best Country Album: Taylor Swift - Fearless

COUNTRY MUSIC ASSOCIATION

Best Country Album: Taylor Swift - Fearless

Collaborated with artists including:

TAYLOR SWIFT
JASON MRAZ
ASHLEY URBAN
SARA GRACE
MIRANDA LAMBERT
LADY ANTEBELLUM
JASON ALDEAN
LIONEL RICHIE
POINT OF GRACE
The passage in 2 Thessalonians 2:15-17 became the overarching theme for our 2016 Global Perspectives trip in Cuba. This year, Dr. Kelly Lumpkin and Dr. DeWayne Knight, along with their wife, Jane, led three senior students: Katie Gobin and Casey Detwiler, who are health science and nursing majors, and Levi Moffett, an athletic training major.

During the trip, they packed and shipped a variety of sports equipment and balls, including baseballs, soccer balls, and softballs. After arrival at the Havana airport, they met the Havana sponsor and transported the equipment to the Havana Sports Medicine clinic.

During the mission, they encountered various challenges, including special dietary needs and the practical aspects of limiting or avoiding certain foods. They also had the opportunity to play games, including softball, with the locals.

The mission ended with a visit to the beautiful Cuban countryside near Havana, where they enjoyed the fresh lobster and other local dishes. The experience was both challenging and rewarding, as they shared their experiences and helped others in need.

Dr. Dewayne Knight M.D, ATC, holds the position of faculty member and sports health team physician at Lee University.
Once again, Lee University ranked in the "top tier" of the U.S. News & World Report's "Best Colleges" edition. Lee ranked high in two categories this year. Under "Best Regional Universities," Lee was No. 56 out of 105 in the Top Tier. Lee was also listed among the "A+ Schools for B Students" category, which lists colleges and universities alphabetically by region. This ranking included 25 schools from the South.

U.S. News has been ranking colleges for 32 years and continues to be a closely watched and respected college ranking system. The magazine reviewed nearly 1,600 colleges and universities nationwide for the 2017 annual issue. It ranked Princeton as America's best university, followed by Harvard, University of Chicago, and Yale.

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While the new School of Nursing was completed in August, two more construction projects continue on the south end of campus. In essence, two sides of a four-sided “quad” are in place with the School of Nursing and Communication Arts Building. To the south, the former educational wing of the former First Baptist Church is being transformed into the new home for the Department of Business. The façade has been virtually completed with connecting walkways and canopies yet to come. Inside, the work continues toward what is hoped to be a fall 2017 opening.

Directly across is perhaps the most unique new campus structure since the 2011 completion of The Chapel. What is to be called The Forum, the tower will be the highest point on campus and one of the tallest in all of Cleveland. In November, a set of eight bells were delivered and lifted into the top portion of the tower, which will also feature a chiming clock. The Forum is destined to become “the” gathering place for student groups and events.

A full feature on The Forum, scheduled for completion at the first of the year, will be included in the next issue of Torch.

In the spring of this year, the Cleveland City Council voted to close portions of three city streets to allow for development of Lee’s south campus. The area is located to the east and west of Parker Street, across from the new School of Nursing and south of Keeble Hall women’s residence.

**THEN**

This panoramic view was taken from Trunk Street looking north earlier this year. Seven structures in view at the time, as well as both the portions of Trunk Street and 5th Street, right, were scheduled to be razed and removed this summer. In the distance to the left is Keeble Hall.

**NOW**

Taken at precisely the same spot, this photo shows the results of this summer’s work. All seven structures and the two roads have been removed creating a beautiful open green space. To the right are private homes on Walker Street, previously out of view from this vantage point. Out of view to the left is the primary parking lot for the School of Nursing.
BREZNA EARNS DOCTORATE

Dr. Lenena Brezna, assistant professor of music at Lee University, recently earned her Doctorate of Musical Arts from the University of Memphis. Her dissertation, titled, “The Night Dances: An Analysis of Juliana Hall’s Night Dances,” is based on the six-movement song cycle about the night by female poets, including Emily Dickinson, Emily Brontë, Edna St. Vincent Millay, and Elizabeth Bishop.

Brezna began teaching at Lee in 2014 as a lecturer in voice. She has received acclaim in a variety of operatic roles, along with solo and concert presentations.

—HAILEY RUDD

LEE’S JASSO PRESENTS AT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE IN PARAGUAY

Associate professor of business and economics, Dr. Hermilo Jasso Jr., recently presented at the International Leadership Conference in Asunción, Paraguay. The conference, “A Day for Leaders,” was attended by more than 500 of the top business leaders in the country.

Jasso’s presentation, “The Power of Storytelling as a Strategic Business Tool,” was based on the shift that social media has had in pushing communicators toward being more authentic, transparent, and personal. His presentation was based on the notion that storytelling is part of the shift that business leaders have to make in order to become great leaders. Jasso also discussed how data has proved that people like to think that most decision makers are logical, while in reality they use data and facts to post-rationalize the decision they have already emotionally made.

Jasso has been a member of the Business faculty at Lee since 1987.

—CHARITY PARRIS

WYKOFF COMMISSIONED TO COMPOSE FOR PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

Lee’s Dr. John Wykoff, assistant professor of music theory and composition, has been commissioned to compose music for the upcoming U.S. presidential inauguration.

Dr. Cameron LaBarr, director of choral studies at Missouri State University, invited Wykoff to compose on behalf of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies. Wykoff will compose two works for LaBarr’s choir to sing in the ceremony. Wykoff and LaBarr enlisted poet Michael Dennis Browne to compose the text for one of the pieces. The other work is an arrangement of an American folk-hymn.

“I am pleased that the work of Dr. Wykoff will be showcased at this event, not only because he is a talented composer and scholar, but also because it highlights the positive impact of Lee University for the second Presidential Inauguration in a row,” said Dr. Phillip Thomas, professor at the Lee University School of Music, referring to Lee’s Festival Choir performance at the 2013 Inauguration.

A member of Lee faculty since 2011, Wykoff previously taught at the Aaron Copland School of Music. This past summer, the Missouri Choral Director’s Association (MCDA) presented Wykoff with the Opus Award for his original choral composition, “Panis Angelicus” for string and quartet. The Opus Award is presented annually by the MCDA for an outstanding original choral composition.

Wykoff’s pieces will be performed at the 58th Inauguration Day at the United States Capitol on Jan. 20, 2017.

—CHARITY PARRIS
PARADE OF FAVORITES FOSTERS LIFELONG FRIENDSHIPS

BY RACHEL PROCTOR

This year I had the wonderful opportunity to be involved as a contestant in Parade of Favorites at Lee University. On November 12, friends, families, students, and faculty gathered in the Conn Center to watch this “not-so-average” pageant. The contestants are made up of women, along with their escorts, representing different clubs and organizations from all across campus. This year we had 15 couples involved in the event.

Parade of Favorites is different from the average pageant for many reasons. It goes beyond just eveningwear and talent. The scoring is heavily based on the women’s campus involvement, grade point average, and completed service hours. They aren’t just pretty faces, but are heavily integrated and involved in our campus and its mission. A charity is also chosen to raise money and awareness, and this year we promoted Operation Christmas Child. The chosen charity is displayed within the show in multiple ways. All the contestants were asked questions in a professional interview about OCC and how they viewed it. We also received the honor of participating in packing Christmas boxes for OCC. One of our practices was devoted to packing these boxes with toys, hygiene items, and school supplies for children in need.

The show also displays a different theme each year. The theme is reflected in the photo shoots, decorations, and group dances for the event. This year’s theme was Cirque Du SOLEE. I, along with the other contestants, rehearsed these circus-themed dances every week since August. For me, this was the biggest difference between POF and other pageants: True community and relationship built in an environment where competition can so easily creep in. The people I got to know during practices and the relationships I built are ones I’m not sure I would have made otherwise. Watching everyone help one another learn dances and practice talents was unbelievable to experience. I believe this is what makes Parade of Favorites successful every year. By the end of the months of practicing, no one is concerned with who wins or who loses, because it is guaranteed to be someone with whom you’ve made a lasting relationship. Everyone is just as deserving in your eyes and it is impossible to not be happy and proud of every person standing on that stage with you.

That being said, I think I speak for all of the contestants when I say we are more than proud of this year’s winner, Rebekah Mura! Rebekah was representing A-Force in the Admissions office and is extremely involved in campus life. Some other awards given went to Brooklyn Holbrook for Miss Congeniality and Tanner Smith for Best Interview. Effect this summer, Sheri Dellinger was promoted to coordinator of Adult Admissions. Sheri is a 10-year veteran of the DAL, beginning at its predecessor the Center for Adult and Professional Studies (CAPS). She serves as an academic and records officer for adult students, processing their applications, reviewing transcripts and finalizing acceptances.

Along with Dellinger, Lee Seals ‘98 was promoted to Coordinator of Student Services, a role vacated by the retiring Phil Barber earlier in August working with DAL students. Seals was representing A-Force in the Admissions office and is extremely involved in campus life. Some other awards given went to Brooklyn Holbrook for Miss Congeniality and Tanner Smith for Best Interview.}

Parade of Favorites is a perfect display of what I believe Lee wants its students to understand. This is an event that promotes unity in a place where it isn’t always welcome. It aids in showing students that Christ’s love and brotherly community can and should be displayed everywhere. I know for myself the experience has been quite eye opening and one I wouldn’t want to trade for anything. Being in Parade of Favorites this year has shown me what it truly looks like to grow and learn alongside people and how to celebrate with people in a competitive environment.

Miss POF – Rebekah Mura
1ST RUNNER-UP – Indysasia Johnson
2ND RUNNER-UP – Kelsey French
3RD RUNNER-UP – Rachel Proctor
4TH RUNNER-UP – Anna Beth Potter

category winners
 Escort – Tanner Smith
 Congeniality – Brooklyn Holbrook
 Interview – Indyasia Johnson
 Kay McDaniel – Rachel Proctor
 Service – Kelsey French
 Talent – Brooklyn Holbrook

overall winners
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BY DENNIS PURVIS

The recent growth in adult students at Lee University has meant several changes and additions to the Enrollment Services department of the Division of Adult Learning and Beyond. As fall enrollment passed 800 online students for the first time, these changes were necessary to meet the growing demand for online education specifically designed for adult learners.

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FIVE ADDED TO ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

The Lee University Athletic Department inducted five new members into its Hall of Fame on Friday, November 4 of Homecoming weekend:

Cissom was Lee’s first NAIA All-American in 2007. In recording a 75.35 stroke average, Cissom won six-career individual tournaments and posted 11 Top Ten finishes.

Brooke scored 2216 points (third all-time) and collected 370 assists (eighth all-time). She was a two-time NAIA All-American and the 2011 SSAC Co-Player of the year. She was a member of four Lee teams that registered a 118–22 mark.

The twin sisters helped guide the Lady Flames to the 2008 and 2009 NAIA National Championships. Christiane was 2008 and 2009 National Tournament MVP and 2009 National Player of the Year. Both were named NAIA First Team All-Americans, as well as graduating Summa Cum Laude.

MERITORIOUS AWARD: NICK HUMBLE
Nick Humble became an instrumental part of the men’s basketball program when he arrived on the Lee campus in the fall of 1970. Nick did whatever then coach Dale Hughes and the team needed, including the unofficial assistant coach, academic advisor and Lee’s Sports information director. He also became the “Voice of the Vikings” broadcasting home games. A successful businessman who spent over 38 years as a highly decorated insurance person, Nick says the Lee College Vikings and Coach Hughes were instrumental during his professional years.

In The Hall (l-r) Brandon Cissom, Brooke McKinnon Evans, and Nick Humble are presented their Hall of Fame Honors at Homecoming.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL KNOCKS OFF MEMPHIS
Coach Marty Rowe and the Lady Flames have opened up his thirteenth season as head coach of the Lee women’s basketball team with a 3-1 mark as of late November. The veteran coach holds a mark of 331-77 at Lee and has won 20-plus games in 16 straight seasons dating back to his start at Brescia University.

Traveling to West Tennessee to take on NCAA Division I University of Memphis, the Lady Flames left town with a stunning 52-44 win. It was Lee women’s basketball program’s first win over a DI program. After the exhibition Homecoming win over Bryan College, the Lady Flames were victorious over Saint Leo (Fla.), Young Harris (Ga.), and Brescia (Ky.). The lone loss came against sixth-ranked Florida Southern College.

Juniors Erin Walsh and Carrie Cheeks set the pace for the young Lee squad. Freshman guards Lindsey Roddy and Abby Bertram appear to have made a seamless transition from high school ball to the college ranks. Haley Cornellison, a junior-transfer from Roane State Community College, has settled in nicely to the starting lineup, battling through a sore ankle.

The Lady Flames are picked by the Gulf South Conference coaches to finish fourth in the league and will tangle with rivals Union University, Shorter University, the University of West Florida, and Delta State University when the conference slate begins.
MEN’S SOCCER IN SEARCH FOLLOWING FUREY RESIGNATION

The Lee Athletic Department is seeking a new men's soccer head coach after Paul Furey submitted his resignation shortly after the Flames were beaten by the University of West Alabama in the opening round of the Gulf South Conference Tournament.

Furey directed the men's soccer program for six seasons and posted a 66-41-13 overall record, including an NCCAA National Championship in 2014. His final Lee club finished at 9-7-2 overall and placed fifth in the final GSC standings (4-3-2). The Flames placed three players on the All-Gulf South Conference team. Senior forward David (DP) Perez, the GSC Player of the Year in 2015, was named to the first unit while senior midfielders Quade Marinell and Robbie Cutchin are members of the second-team squad.

VOLLEYBALL FINISHES AT .500

 Battling back from a slow start and a late-season injury to all-conference outside hitter Silvia Sartori, the Lee volleyball team still managed a .500 season (15-15) in the rugged Gulf South Conference. The Lady Flames placed fifth in the final GSC standings, losing to Christian Brothers University in the opening round of the GSC tournament.

Highlights of the 2016 season came with an impressive home-court win over University of North Alabama—the team that captured the NCAA Division II National title. Wins followed over Shorter University and ranked West Florida.

Sartori, a powerful sophomore outside hitter, had 305 kills before her injury, averaging 3.43 per game.

MaKayla Beebe, a sophomore, was named to the All-GSC Second Team along with Sartori. She helped Coach Andrea Hudson’s women finish the regular season with a winning record 15-14, and .500 in the GSC (10-10).

Before earning a bid to the GSC tournament, the Lady Flames completed another highly successful Volley for the Cure event, posting a victory over the University of West Georgia and raising thousands of dollars for the Mary Ellen Locher Foundation.

MEN’S BASKETBALL BEGINS “BUBBA” ERA

Under the direction of first-year head coach Bubba Smith, the Lee men's basketball team is off to a winning start in the young season. Senior forward Keevin Tyus is leading the way for the Flames, being named the Gulf South Conference Player of the Week early in the season as he recorded a double-double in the Flames 93-77 home opening victory.

Fellow seniors Rico Overall and Jervon Johnson are also averaging double-figures.

The first recruiting class of the Coach Smith era is also paying early dividends through sophomore transfer Cody Jones, who played with Smith from Sewanee last season, and freshmen Ryan Montgomery and Parker Suedekum.
The Lee University Cross Country teams finished their year in NCAA competition, setting the bar high for other teams to follow.

The men’s team had four runners place in the top 11 in winning the university’s first NCAA Division II South Region Championship.

The Flames placed four runners on the All-Region list, including Christian Noble (third place), Harold Smith (fifth), Seth Eagleson (tenth), and Brandon Raleigh (eleventh).

Earlier, Lee claimed the Gulf South Conference (GSC) for the second straight year and placed three runners (Smith and Eagleson) in the top five. Eighty-four runners were entered. Smith, Eagleson, and Noble were All-GSC First Team honorees for placing in the top 10. Noble had the fastest time of all the true freshmen and was named the GSC Freshman of the Year.

Coach Caleb Morgan was named the GSC and the South Region Coach of the Year. It marked the second straight year he was named the conference Coach of the Year.

The Flames concluded their season at the NCAA Division II National, finishing eighteenth out of 32 teams. The Flames accumulated 525 points and were the top finisher in the South Region in the 10K race.

Smith was Lee’s top runner, crossing the finish line at 32:04.2 to finish sixty-eighth. Eagleson was close behind, and Noble gave the Flames three runners in the top 100.

The Lady Flames cross country team also finished a successful season, which included five top-four finishes and the program’s first trip to the NCAA Division II National Championship. They were edged by one point for the Gulf South Conference (GSC) championship and recovered to place third at the NCAA DII South Region Championship to earn the automatic berth to nationals.

U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association honored Audrey Smith and Amy Carpenter as All-Region for being among the Top 25 individual finishers at the regional meets. The duo also earned All-GSC First Team recognition for their performances at the conference championship. Blakely Moore and Charlee Boxall were named to the All-GSC Second Team, and the Lady Flames also claimed three GSC Freshman of the Week selections.

Despite a heartbreaking loss in the NCAA Tournament the Lee women’s soccer team continued its run of excellence with a 14-3-2 record to finish the 2016 campaign.

Coach Chris Hennessey’s club earned its second straight at-large berth to the NCAA National Championship field and appeared ready to secure its first victory in the South Region first round on Nov. 11 as it jumped out to a 2-0 halftime lead over Rollins College from Miami Shores, Fla.

The Tars would battle back, however, in the second stanza, scoring twice to tie things up and force overtime before netting the winning goal with just two seconds remaining in the first extra period to shock the Lady Flames.

Lee standouts Kinsey Cichowitz and Summer Lanter were named to the CCA NCAA Division II All-South Region Team. The Lady Flames placed three other players on the All-South Region Second Team. Junior goalkeeper Haley Gribler, midfielder McKenzie Bricker, and sophomore forward Lauren Peter.

The Lady Flames finished in tie with West Florida for the Gulf South Conference regular season crown with an 11-1 mark. Lanter was named the GSC Player of the Year and was joined on the All-GSC First Team by Cichowitz. Gribler, Peters, Bricker, and Meagan Newman earned spots on the all-conference second team.
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 www.leeuniversity.edu/alumni and click on the alumni and partners link.
2. Click Torch.
3. Click the Who's Where Update option.

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

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

For updates, please visit: www.leeuniversity.edu/alumni

LEE UNIVERSITY TORCH // WINTER 2016

ALUMNI ASSIST WITH SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE TRAGEDIES

Lee alumni were critical players in recovery efforts for individuals and families during a two-week period of tragedies that made national headlines in Southeast Tennessee in November. On November 21, six elementary-aged students died in a school bus crash in Chattanooga. Pastor Kevin Wallace ’15 of Redemption Point Church, assisted families and conducted at least one funeral for a six-year old victim.

Ten days later, fire broke out in the hills of the Great Smoky Mountains where Phillip Morris ’86 serves as pastor of Parkway Church in Sevierville, Tennessee. While several Lee alumni who pastor in the area had members affected by the fires, the Reed family tragically lost a mother and two daughters to the fast-moving inferno. Phillip acted as a spokesperson as well as counselor to three other families in his church.

That same week, numerous tornadoes touched down in surrounding southeast Tennessee counties, including McMinn County where John Gentry ’89 has served as county mayor for over ten years. A tornado wreaked havoc in the city of Athens, Tennessee, destroying several homes and businesses and taking several lives. John stepped into his leadership role, including being featured on national news addressing the tragedy.

Lindon ’05 and Jennifer Clanton Lantz ’05 spent the last ten years in the Nashville, Tenn. area teaching band and choir and raising a family. They recently discovered a new path opening their own music store, Bandwagon Music & Repair, offering in-house instrument repairs by Lindon, a full lessons studio staffed with teachers, and a retail space that Jennifer says is, “unlike anything else in our town… It’s a true family business as our kids are with us most days ‘helping’ to ‘run the shop!’ We’d love serve any Lee alumni in our area.” Their website is www.bandwagontimusicandrepair.com.

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LEE UNIVERSITY TORCH // WINTER 2016
Between September and November of this year, Lee students and alumni showcased their musical talents, sharing stages with top stars at several events.

On September 9, Jalil Muhammad, a Lee music major, performed on the saxophone alongside singer and songwriter Usher Raymond at a concert in Chattanooga, Tenn. Muhammad is a native of Chattanooga and a sophomore at Lee.

"Getting the opportunity to play alongside Usher was an awesome experience," said Muhammad. Also a Chattanooga native, Usher has recorded several hit albums including "My Way," "Confessions," and "Looking 4 Myself." The concert was part of State Farm's Neighborhood Sessions concert series.

Lindsey Shewbridge '13, 15M had the opportunity to play in the band for worldwide music sensation Adele during a two-night sold-out performance at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tenn. on October 15 and 16. Lindsey's chance to play for the superstar came when Lee music professor Nathan Warner received a call asking for a recommendation. A few months later, Lindsey received an email asking about her availability. While Adele’s rhythm section travels the country with her, the brass players are auditioned for each venue.

"Lee helped prepare me for this opportunity by equipping me to be the best trumpet player I could be and teaching me about professionalism," Lindsey stated. When asked about the experience overall she said, "It was exhilarating. I felt like I was in a dream the entire time. It was such an incredible honor and blessing to be a part of something on that professional level." Lindsey is living in Cleveland, Tenn. where she is the band director at Lake Forest Middle School. She maintains an active studio of trumpeters aged 9-18 and performs with the Chattanooga Symphony & Opera and other groups.

Finally, on November 28, Lee University alumni and student groups played a prominent role in the Country Music Association (CMA) Country Christmas special, which aired on ABC television. Among the performers were Rascal Flatts, an enormously popular country music trio over the past decade.

One of its members is Lee University alumus, Jay DeMarcus. Rascal Flatts has racked up numerous Grammy awards and CMA awards, including Group of the Year and Entertainer of the Year.

Backing up Rascal Flatts on a raucous rendition of Joy to the World was the Voices of Lee. Voices signature a cappella style combined with Rascal Flatts country swagger brought the packed house of the Grand Ole Opry to its feet.

About 30 minutes later, Jordan Smith, winner of NBC television's "The Voice" competition last December, grabbed the mic for an original rendition of the traditional Christmas favorite, "Mr. Grinch." Smith’s gritty performance also brought the house to a standing ovation. Smith was a Lee student when he was chosen to compete last fall on the NBC talent search and was crowned the winner of the competition on December 15, 2015. Since then, Smith has been featured on numerous nationally broadcast events including the People's Choice Awards, the TODAY show, performances at Carnegie Hall, and the National Prayer Breakfast, as well as releasing his debut album, "Something Beautiful." He is currently on a Christmas tour with Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith.
Lee University
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