Friends in High Places?

We have recently had two exciting announcements—the invitation of our choirs to sing at the Presidential Inauguration on January 21, and the confirmation that the Governor of Tennessee, Bill Haslam, will bring our commencement address on December 15.

Someone here on campus commented on these back-to-back events by saying to me: “Wow! Dr. Conn, you must have friends in high places!”

Well, that’s not quite how it works. But it is true that these two events illustrate that the Lee University “brand” is getting to be better and better known, not just in Tennessee but elsewhere. Increasingly, people are recognizing what an excellent university Lee has become, and it is more common for Lee to be part of the conversations when top-level institutions are discussed.

The invitation to sing at the Presidential Inauguration came as a result of the recommendation of Senator Lamar Alexander, Tennessee’s senior senator and the vice-chair of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Activities. Other members of the committee include Senator Charles Schumer of New York and the leaders of Democratic and Republican delegations to both houses of the Congress. When Senator Alexander called me to tell me the committee had chosen Lee to send a choir, he suggested I might need twenty-four hours to “check it out” and make a decision. I told him, “Senator, I don’t need twenty-four hours, we are honored to accept right now!”

So the planning is underway. Two hundred students, chosen from the seven choirs of Lee, have already been selected and are rehearsing new music for the event. It is a chance to be part of history, and we want as many students as possible to have that opportunity.

Governor Haslam’s commencement address will be a special treat for the 275 students who graduate that day. He is a popular young Republican governor, in his first term, who won 95 of 95 Tennessee counties in his statewide campaign. People in both parties seem to think he is doing a superb job leading the state. He also brings to our commencement the heart of a deeply committed fellow Christian believer; he and his wife have been active in Young Life and other evangelical ministries, and he has been an elder in the Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church in his hometown of Knoxville for many years.

There are over 60 accredited colleges and universities in Tennessee, and to date Governor Haslam has only taken time to speak at one commencement address—last year at the University of Memphis. We are complimented and very pleased that he accepted our invitation to come to Lee.

I once heard “success” defined as “doing a good job and being recognized for it.” I believe Lee University is doing a job, and in so many ways, we are being recognized for it, more now than ever.

Paul Conn
Hear the latest by following Paul Conn on Twitter

1. Type twitter.com/paulconn into your Internet browser.
2. Click Follow
3. Log in to your Twitter account, or sign up for a new account.
Lee student groups have traditionally been defined along social, spiritual, athletic, and musical lines, and Homecoming has always brought the alumni of those groups back together. November 2-3 was the 52nd time the Lee campus played host to alumni for a Homecoming weekend. This year the reunions and the events surrounding them were the highlight of the annual gathering.

The men of Upsilon Xi set the bar for reunions of other Greek-letter societies on campus, as more than 300 men who wear the black and gray came to town. Lee’s first Greek social service club, founded in 1962, celebrated with three days of events, highlighted by the dedication of the North Gate Arch (see related article). Other reunions took place on campus that involved men’s Greek-letter groups. Pi Kappa Pi, the men in khaki and green, marked their 25th year of existence with a special golden anniversary reunion on Saturday at 5:30, preceded by a night of fun and sports on Friday.

Five years younger, the men of Theta Delta Kappa marked the 20th anniversary of their founding in 1992 with a reunion of their own. Among the musical milestones for 2012 was the 45th year of the Evangelistic Singers, affectionately known as EVS. The multicultural choir has been an example of unity and diversity through the decades. Their performance at the annual music festival on Saturday night reiterated the contribution of the group’s legacy to the Lee experience. They were joined by several other campus choirs and ensembles for the event.

A new concept for class reunions the last couple of years has been the introduction of the Grand Reunion. Whether it is the year you graduated or the last year you attended Lee, alumni are associated with a particular year. However, everyone’s Lee experience includes friends from all levels, and the Grand Reunion has been a success by bringing all classes together, while giving special recognition to the decadal years. This year, the Grand Reunion took place at the Student Union and featured clever displays representative of the decades.

Saturday, November 3, was filled with events, beginning with the predawn start of the annual 5K Fun Run. Taking in the campus and the historic downtown streets for 3.1 miles were several first-time runners who set this race as a personal goal. Other reunions were held all over campus that morning, followed by club displays in front of Nora Chambers Hall. Burgers and dogs were the fare at the tailgate party that preceded basketball games for the Flames and the Lady Flames.

The Flames came out victorious over Bryan College under the lights at Walker Arena. At halftime, the annual Homecoming Queen was crowned, but not before her court was introduced with representatives from each class. Congratulations to Randi Vasquez, a senior advertising major from Macon, Georgia.

For those interested in theater, there were three Homecoming weekend performances of Big River held in the Dixon Center. The performances added another layer of entertainment options for Homecoming delegates.

Anyone who drove the distance to their alma mater this year for Homecoming was not disappointed. There will be more to look forward to in 2013 as the Lee Singers and Alpha Gamma Chi plan toward their golden anniversary celebrations.

See you there!
The 2012 Distinguished Alumni Award this year was unusual for two reasons: It was given to a married couple at the same time, and the two were very recent graduates—both received their degrees from Lee in 2009.

Andrew Smith and his wife, Victoria (Tori) Hensen are natives of the Chattanooga area, having graduated from separate Christian schools there. They were acquaintances throughout high school, and during registration at Lee several years ago, they went through registration together. They both declared history as their majors and received their bachelor's degrees (B.A.) in that discipline.

"Andrew and Tori personify the sort of student who 'finds' himself/herself and becomes the kind of graduate that we can be proud of," said Distinguished Professor of History Bob Barnett. "It was wonderful to watch them become who they are today."

Tori and Andrew were best friends all through Lee, although they never dated. He worked three jobs, including a landscaping and mowing service in which he partnered with Tori. She also worked third shift at a local hotel.

After graduation, Tori taught history for a year, and then attended Michigan State Law School. Andrew was a manager for Target for a year following graduation, but he had known since he was a boy that he wanted to fight for his country.

"I would go anywhere, do anything, to keep the war from coming here," Andrew said. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 2010, and the following year he and Tori were married.

On March 8, 2012, Andrew was on patrol with the 82nd Airborne in Kandahar, Afghanistan, when his unit came under enemy fire. An IED was triggered, and the explosion severed both of Andrew's legs and caused severe abdominal injuries. Since then, he has had nearly 40 surgeries and ongoing rehab at Walter Reed Medical Center.

Living in Washington, D.C., Andrew faces a couple more surgeries, lots more therapy, and wants to get as many artificial legs as he can while there. The Smiths hope to return home to Chattanooga in about a year.

Andrew said, "I want to be sure I can hit the ground running from the moment I get off the plane. My first goal is to hike the Appalachian Trail!"

Former Lee faculty member Al Hartgraves, Ph.D., was awarded the coveted Honorary Alumnus Award during Homecoming. The recognition highlights a person who, "did not attend Lee, but we wish he had," according to President Conn who presented the award.

Hartgraves was a member of the Emory University Goizueta Business School faculty from 1980 to 2009 when he was named professor emeritus. In his 29 years at Goizueta, Dr. Hartgraves held several administrative posts, including acting dean, senior associate dean, and director of MBA programs.

Hartgraves conducted executive education programs for Fortune 500 companies such as Lockheed, The Home Depot, and BellSouth, and served as a consultant on the Enron Bankruptcy Examination. He has published more than 50 scholarly and professional articles which have appeared in The Accounting Review. One of his publications, Management Accounting: A Strategic Management Approach, has been described as "a textbook that helped redefine accounting pedagogy."

However, Hartgraves considers his most important professional accomplishment to be his legacy as a teacher. In 2002, he received Emory’s highest teaching accolade—The University Scholar Teacher Award. During that presentation, Emory’s president referred to Al as “an academic triple threat: administrator, teacher, and researcher.” Students selected him to receive the Distinguished Educator Award on seven occasions, and he was recognized as the “Accounting Educator of the Year” by the Georgia Society of CPAs.

Through the years, Al and his wife, Aline, have remained staunch supporters of Lee, of which Al gives credit for beginning his academic career.

“I was hired as a very young faculty member at Lee College by President Charles Conn,” Hartgraves commented upon accepting the award. “I can tell you with no reservations that I would not be where I am today without the start and training I received while I was a teacher at Lee. I am forever grateful.”
For the past 50 years, Upsilon Xi has been a vital part of the Lee campus. The school’s first Greek social service club seeks to develop men for Christian service.

On September 26, 1962, two men brought a comprehensive proposal to then Lee President Ray H. Hughes. One was a professor, Dr. Duran Palmertree, and the other a student, James Hubbard. A graduate of the University of Mississippi, Palmertree had seen the collegiate experience with fraternity and family, and family, and community.

The school’s first Greek social service club was approved and Upsilon Xi began the surprise of the entire student body, President Hughes approved the charter, and Upsilon Xi began the era of Lee College Greek community.

During Homecoming 2012, Upsilon members and family, celebrated the 50th anniversary of that momentous day. More than 1,000 men in black and gray and more than 2,020 Tuesday club meetings have flown by. The charter members are now senior citizens, and their fellow colleagues of the four decades that have followed are engaged in continuing the callings and principles of this organization. These early visionaries forged the continuity of generations and deep commitments to the school, club, self, and others who dreamed of a Christian fraternity that would hold to scrip-tural principles which included: (1) Follow Me as I Follow Christ, (2) Do All to the Glory of God, (3) Hospitality and Service in All We Do, and (4) Friends Ever Free.

As part of their yearlong plan toward the golden anniversary of their organization, Upsilon members and alumni raised $225,000 toward a new campus landmark—a North Gate Arch. The dedication was the climax of the Saturday morning breakfast gathering (see article in Campus News).

A highlight of the 50th anniversary weekend was when more than 350 alumni filled the Devos Recreation Center on Saturday afternoon to celebrate together the brotherhood that has been Upsi-lon. We enjoyed a great meal, table talk with those closest to us, reflected on our service projects over the years, cried as we remembered our brothers who left too soon, and honored our founding members. A throw was unveiled which depicted some of Upsilon’s more visible contributions throughout the years, including renderings of the clock tower, North Gate Arch, Love At-lanta Run, Sadie Hawkins hayride, and a picture of charter members.

At the conclusion, alums called the current Upsilon leadership forward and challenged them with this statement and question: “This is our 50 years. What about yours? Will you continue the principles and lead Upsilon Xi to a greater era in the next 50 years?”

Current President Ethan Martin responded with a positive acceptance of our challenge and recommit-ment to Upsilon Xi for tomorrow.

On Sunday morning, the celebration weekend concluded with a service of praise in the Lee University Chapel. More than 200 Upsilon men, women, and families thanked God for His favor over the last 50 years. We reflected upon our individual journeys and had a special Holy Communion. The service concluded with a timely challenge from Dr. Mark Williams, general overseer of the Church of God, who was tapped as an honor-ary member, and thus the newest member of Upsilon XI.

As we left for our homes and reflected upon our celebration, we remembered that Upsilon now spans two generations. Fathers and sons are brothers in Upsi-lon Xi. This generational impact was obvious as fathers, sons, and daughters had pictures made together. Our thoughts are now toward our grandchildren and the Upsilon and Lee University they will experience. “All Hail to Upsilon steadfast and strong … for generations to come!”

BY BILL WITERS

Upsilon Xi’s Erica Bradley was crowned Miss Parade of Favorites 2012 during POF’s fiftieth anniversary in the Conn Center on Saturday, November 10, joining a list of winners that includes alumnae like Lee’s First Lady Darlia McIhanan Conn.

Pairs of female students and their male escorts are selected from nine Greek service clubs and the Student Leadership Council to represent their organizations in the pageant. Senior Ivey Lavy served as the director of this year’s show, which highlighted the dif-ferent decades since POF’s start in the 1960s.

Event emcees Joyce Lane and Adam Lewis shared pop culture bluffs from the 60’s through the 90’s throughout the night, and the bands, chosen by J.T. Wessels, played medleys of popular songs from each decade.

The emcees also interviewed alumni who had participated in the pageant during their time at Lee. Lawrence enjoyed incorporat-ing this aspect into the 50th show, because she was able to include her own mother, Lau-ren Pippin Lawrence—a contestant in 1981.

“While I always thought I would be a contestant in this show, I found a way to be involved that fits my strengths and enables me to tip my hat to not only a past contestant, but an alumnus who participated in the pageant during their time at Lee,” Lawrence said. “I enjoyed incorporating this aspect into the 50th show, because she was able to include her own mother, Lauren Pippin Lawrence—a contestant in 1981.”

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BRADLEY IS NAMED LATEST OF FIFTY MISS PARADE OF FAVORITES

BY MARSHALL PICKARD, LEE CLARION

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Like the women, the escorts change clothes throughout the evening and often assist the contestants with their talent competition. Overall, they play a bigger role when Conn was in the pageant.

Conn played the piano for her talent in 1966, and while most contestants during this year’s competition sang or played an instrument, oth-er contestants performed an original skit, a comedy routine, or a spoken-word poem.

Bradley’s favorite section of the competition was the talent contest. She sang, “Not Like the Movies” by Katy Perry, because she says, she believes that people can still find their one true love, like in “Cinderella.”

Competitors ran on a platform—a current issue or organization that was important to them. Bradley spoke about Pink—a ministry from South-India, Texas, which seeks to foster spiritual growth in women.

Contestants and their escorts also had to participate in group dances that featured popular music and dances from each time period. Choirs were directed by “Big” Phil Bonaparte.

“We have been doing this for three months,” said Bradley about learning the choreography. “I didn’t get it all together until two nights ago, when we were under a lot of pressure.”

For Lawrence, the most satisfying aspect of planning the event was working with her staff. “Honestly, the camaraderie of our whole crew was the best part of this semester-long process,” said Lawrence. “Of course, sitting on the front row watching the whole group come together so well [also] was a pretty rewarding moment.”

The Parade of Favorites pageant emerged from a golden era in Lee history when new student clubs were being formed, music groups were being chartered, and the coed swimming. The event took place in the old audito-rium, previously located at the site of the current Doxon Jones Dining Hall.

The 1965 event was sponsored by the Vin-digua, and it was actu-ally called the Vin-digua Parade of Favourites. Like today, representatives were chosen by campus clubs, organizations, or classes. Chi-ments for competition were defined as grace, talent, Christian leadership, and beauty.

Contests were a big portion of the POF ex-perience, as were the weeks and weeks of preparation by the contestants.

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Foreign Extension Campuses Offer Quality Programs

By Carolyn Dirksen

A colorfully dressed Quechua boards a bus at the foot of a volcano in the Andean highlands and makes the two-hour trip to the mountain town of Casha Pamba. A world away in Frankfurt, a doctor fights city traffic before winding through the Black Forest to reach the hamlet of Kneibus. A man in Colombia takes a week away from his program for the orphans of drug wars and catches a flight to Quito. What all these people have in common is that they are Lee University students on their way to class.

For the past five years, Lee has offered two joint master’s degrees at the Europäisches Theologisches Seminar (ETS) in Kneibus, Germany—one in counseling psychology and one in Pentecostal and charismatic studies. Just last year, Lee began offering a Master’s in holistic child development in Quito, Ecuador, at the Seminario Sudamericano (Semisud). Programs offered at ETS and Semisud are also offered, in some version, on the Lee campus; but all of them have been adapted to fit the cultural needs where they are taught.

The ETS programs have produced 77 graduates with an additional 54 students currently enrolled. According to Paul Schmidgal, ETS president, the addition of these accredited master’s programs has significantly affected the enrollment at ETS even outside those specific areas.

"We have doubled our enrollment since the first year of Lee’s involvement," Schmidgal says. Both Lee programs in Germany have strong support from local faculty, including Professor Dr. Jeff Sergeant teaches at European Theological Seminary (ETS).

Festival Choir Headed to D.C. to Perform at Inauguration

Five days before President Obama was reelected, Tennessee’s U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander appeared at a chapel service on the Lee campus to make a stunning announcement: The Lee University Festival Choir, a combined chorus of the university’s choirs, would be performing at the inauguration of the president of the United States.

"We do not yet know who will be inaugurated president in January," Alexander said at the November 1 event, "but we do know who will be singing that day—the Lee University choir." The announcement resulted in thunderous applause from faculty, staff, and students jammed into the Conn Center. The news was a well-kept secret until that time, as even members of the Festival Choir, performing for the senator that morning, were surprised.

The choir’s performance will occur immediately before the official swearing-in ceremonies at midday on January 21, 2013, in Washington, D.C. The choir will perform outdoors on the upper west terrace of the United States Capitol. Members of the choir will come from the seven major ensembles at Lee, including Lee Singers, Campus Choir, Voices of Lee, Ladies of Lee, Evangelistic Singers, Lee Chorale, and Choral Union.

The inaugural delegation will be led and directed by the dean of the School of music, Dr. William R. Green.

Alexander issued the invitation on behalf of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies, of which he is vice chair. For the past five years, Lee has offered two joint master’s degrees at the Europäisches Theologisches Seminar (ETS) in Kneibus, Germany—one in counseling psychology and one in Pentecostal and charismatic studies. Just last year, Lee began offering a Master’s in holistic child development in Quito, Ecuador, at the Seminario Sudamericano (Semisud). Programs offered at ETS and Semisud are also offered, in some version, on the Lee campus, but all of them have been adapted to fit the cultural needs where they are taught.

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Alexander said he recommended the Lee musicians because “their great talent and inspirational musicianship will thrill the millions of people who will be watching the inauguration of our president.”

Speaking with the senator at the chapel service, President Conn said, "We are honored to accept Senator Alexander’s invitation... At the last presidential inauguration, we suspended classes so students could watch the ceremonies together on TV in large groups around campus. It’s thrilling to know that this year our students will be part of the festivities.”

Conn continued, "I am grateful to Senator Alexander for this wonderful opportunity. We’re so complimented that, of all the fine schools he might have invited, he chose Lee University.”
Michael Dieterich, a well-known authority in counseling who attracts highly qualified students including a number of medical doctors, Trevor Milliron, director of Lee's graduate programs in counseling, heads the counseling program from the Lee side, and several members of the psychology graduate faculty have made the trip to Germany to teach.

"The students in this program are very focused and dedicated," Milliron remarks. "They come prepared, ask probing questions, and want proof for every concept. Teaching them is challenging because they are so good, but we have people waiting in line for this opportunity." Lee faculty go to ETS for one-week intensives, teaching six hours a day. Students do readings and prepare for lectures prior to the week of classes and follow up with extensive papers and reflections. "We have to hit the ground running," said Richard Jones, Lee anthropology professor who teaches a class in cross-cultural perspectives. "I thought the classroom would be more formal than we are used to in the United States, but the students are open and flexible and willing to participate."

According to Schmidgal, students who complete the counseling master's degree take their skills back to countries all over Europe. "Two of them are currently pursuing their Ph.D.s, and several others have had their theses published with the assistance of Professor Dieterich. A recent graduate, Alex Madincea, several others have had their theses published with the assistance of Professor Dieterich. A recent graduate, Alex Madincea,

Terry Cross, dean of Lee's School of Religion, leads the Lee side of the religion master's degree. To launch the program, Cross spent a sabbatical in Knebren teaching the intensives and doing research at nearby Tubingen University. "Tubingen and Heidelberg Universities are always eager to have Dr. Cross come and lecture for them while he is here," says Schmidgal, adding that Cross's affiliation with ETS has increased the seminary's reputation with these key European universities. As with the counseling program, courses are taught bilingually in English and German.

"The students are already engaged in some form of ministry and bring their experiences to bear in the seminars," says Cross. "I believe that in future years, we will see some amazing results for church leadership from this program." According to Schmidgal, students in the master's in Pentecostal and Charismatic Studies are usually already church workers and return to their churches when they graduate. Many of them are leaders who have come back to receive the master's degree and others are advanced to leadership after completing the degree.

Although the master's degree in holistic child development offered on the campus of Semisud in Ecuador is a new degree, Lee has had a long affiliation with the Latin American seminary. For more than 15 years, Lee faculty have offered courses there as part of Semisud's academic programming, but a need for accreditation of graduate offerings led Semisud's leaders to ask Lee for greater involvement.

Semisud was offering a degree in holistic child development designed to prepare students to work with children in extreme situations such as poverty, abuse, and human trafficking. "When we looked at the curriculum, we really liked it," says Milliron. "We were searching for another way to prepare our graduate students at Lee, and this seemed like the perfect fit for us." So, Lee joined Semisud in offering the degree on both campuses. The Semisud program now has 22 students from six Latin American countries. Most students are already working with church agencies or other nonprofits, so they bring rich experiences to the classroom.

David Quagliana, Lee graduate faculty and member of the Counseling Center staff, describes one assignment from his class on community interventions. "One student from Colombia designed a program for child refugees from homes and villages impacted by drug wars. Another created a church-based marital training program to prevent or intervene in physical abuse situations."

Students in the Quito program come from a variety of backgrounds, and according to Quagliana, they are eager to introduce Lee faculty to their various cultures. "We spent an evening in downtown Quito," Quagliana says, "we crossed language barriers in multilingual stumbling conversations over lunch, and celebrated together at a barbecue and campfire on the final night of class."

Quagliana also accompanied his class on a trip to Cayambe, a Quechua town on the slope of an active volcano and home to one class member. "We enjoyed a meal of guinea pig and homemade tortillas, prepared over a wood fire in the yard beside their home and built lasting memories and newfound understanding of each other's cultures," says Quagliana.

Lee students from the Cleveland campus have traveled to Quito to take intensive courses alongside their Latin American counterparts, and U.S. students have the option of using Ecuador as the site of their supervised internships. Like the classes at ETS, Semisud classes are intensive and are offered bilingually. Dr. Donny Roggeband, Semisud faculty member, heads the program from the Quito side.

Quagliana sums up the Lee faculty perspective on the Quito program, "My teaching experience at Semisud was a wonderful opportunity to increase these students' capacities to impact the kingdom of God throughout the Latin American world. It also created the opportunity to build meaningful relationships, cultural dialogue, and lasting impressions of the common bonds we have through the community of faith."

Milliron, who teaches consistently in both international programs sums up his experience and the advantage to Lee for going international. "The most rewarding aspect of teaching in another culture is how much the professor gets to learn. The shared learning experience between professor and students is my favorite type of classroom environment."

The Department of Christian Ministries has submitted a proposal to Lee's accrediting agency to offer a Master of Arts in Christian Leadership in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala, at the Seminario Bíblico Pentecostal CentroAmericano (SEBIPCA). If the program is approved, Lee faculty will venture into Central America to provide contextualized leadership training to the 5,000 Church of God pastors there.

Dr. Carolyn Dirksen is vice president for Academic Affairs at Lee University.
Lee University Vice President for Business and Finance Chris Conine (left) presents the key to the Lee-sponsored 100th Habitat home to the Sylvester Hetiback family on December 5, 2012.

Lee Partners With Local Habitat for Humanity on 100th Home

Lee University and Habitat for Humanity of Cleveland (HFHOC) have partnered to help the local home building organization reach a significant milestone—constructing its 100th home in Bradley County, Tenn.

“Lee University feels it is important to give back to our immediate community, to be good neighbors and to provide opportunities for those who are less fortunate,” said Chris Conine, vice president for Business and Finance at Lee.

“We are thrilled for the opportunity to partner with Habitat of Cleveland to give a family a fresh start on life,” Conine said.

Since its founding as a chapter in 1980, HFHOC has built homes in Cleveland and Bradley County in addition to numerous home renovations.

HFHOC is a nonprofit Christian housing ministry. Its goal is to develop communities for people in need by building and selling houses to prequalified families with zero percent interest loans and a significantly reduced price of the homes through volunteer labor and donated materials. Along with paying for the home, the families complete financial counseling and participate in a certain amount of “sweat equity” hours in which they volunteer time with Habitat either by working in the construction or in the office. Habitat’s program strives to “provide a hand up, not a hand out,” according to HFHOC’s executive director, Matt Carlson, a graduate of Lee.

Sylvester and Stella Hetiback are the new owners of the 100th home. Originally from an island off the coast of Micronesia, they moved to America in order to seek a better life for their four children—Sylvanna, 15; Veston, 14; Vesrod, 12; and Stella, 7.

“We are very excited to build our 100th home in Bradley County,” said Annie Kinworthy, HFHOC Community Development coordinator and also a graduate of Lee. “I am happy for the Hetiback family and grateful for Lee’s support.” As primary sponsor, Lee helped cover cost of materials, as well as providing a project team and volunteers to help with construction. A specified workday for Lee volunteers took place in September and included President Conn, Vice Presidents Mike Hayes and Chris Conine, the head of the physical plant, Larry Berry, and several others.

The foundation of the home was poured in mid-August, and the home was dedicated on December 5, 2012, in a community-wide celebration.

Lee volunteers join with Habitat Director Matt Carlson to raise a wall at the site. From left are Carlson, President Conn, Larry Berry, director of the physical plant, Chris Conine, vice president for Business and Finance, and Mike Hayes, vice president for Student Development.

Lee alumni and interns employed with the Cleveland Habitat for Humanity office include (l-r) Mike Watkins ’91, director of finance; Annie Kinworthy ’07 community development coordinator; Matt Carlson ’00, executive director; Lauren Womax (junior), Habitat intern; Brandon Patterson (junior) bookkeeper; Brittany Slone (junior), events coordinator; Jessica Fisher ’09, volunteer coordinator; and Tammy Johnson ’07, resource development director.

Lee Alumni Key to Success of Cleveland Habitat Chapter

Habitat for Humanity of Cleveland was recognized as the 2012 Affiliate of the Year in Tennessee, and the success of the chapter can be credited to its staff, dominated by Lee University alumni.

The Cleveland nonprofit was named recipient of the state organization’s prestigious Affiliate of the Year and Leader of the Year honors during the recent Habitat for Humanity of Tennessee State Conference in Murfreesboro.

The affiliate award was presented to the entire staff of the local Habitat, while the leader designation went to Matt Carlson, executive director of the Cleveland organization. Carlson has cochaired the work of the Bradley County Long-Term Recovery Organization (LTRO) in the aftermath of the April 27, 2011, tornado outbreak that destroyed 285 homes, heavily damaged hundreds of others, and killed nine people in Cleveland and Bradley County.

During the state conference, Carlson was described as a man “worthy of any award that has to do with leadership…” someone who is “innovative in his thinking and truly lives out a life of service to his community.”

Following the tornadoes, the Cleveland affiliate temporarily suspended its traditional construction program in order to partner with other community organizations to begin the long and daunting task of storm recovery. This included the repair of damaged homes and the rebuilding of destroyed residences.

“Despite the tragic circumstances, Habitat for Humanity of Cleveland was able to assist with recovery and stay on track with its goal of completing 10 [Habitat] homes,” according to state Habitat for Humanity officials while presenting the pair of awards.

“The Leader of the Year award is reflective of our entire staff,” Carlson told the Cleveland Daily Banner. “As I have always said, our Habitat affiliate is only as successful as the Cleveland and Bradley County community is involved. I accepted this award, but it was more appropriately a recognition, and a public thank you, to the residents of this community who have remained committed to our full recovery.” Carlson is the immediate past president of the state Habitat for Humanity organization.

In addition to building homes, by the end of 2012, the local affiliate will have completed 35 home repair projects through its “Brush with Kindness” program, headed by Annie Kinworthy. Coordinating the massive amount of volunteers needed for events, construction, and staffing of the ReStore retail outlet is Jessica Fisher. In fundraising, Tammy Lambert Johnson, resource development director, has been the driving force behind HFHOC’s biggest fundraiser: Bike to Build. And managing the millions of dollars coming in each year to the local affiliate is Mike Watkins, whose years of experience in small business has placed HFHOC on a steady financial foundation.
Living and Learning in Our Backyard

By Bill Estes

Not all the great learning at Lee University takes place inside the classroom. As our nation, states, and local communities put a greater emphasis on personal health, so too are the curricular and extracurricular activities at Lee. And much of it is happening outside.

Every semester the Outdoor Recreation Program at Lee University offers backpacking, floating, and wilderness, first-responder courses that take advantage of resources in our backyard, such as the Great Smoky Mountains and the Ocoee River, site of the 1996 Olympic canoe and kayak events. Led by Eric Eledge and Kevin Hudson, outdoor recreation has gained in offerings, experiences, and students in the past few years. Recent additions to the official curriculum are Marathon Training and Mountain Biking. Marathon Training (PHED118) is taught each spring by Lee’s track and cross-country coach, Don Jayroe. Mountain Biking (PHED130) is taught by Lee alum and owner of the local Trailhead Bicycle Shop, Charles Nelson.

These activity classes mesh well with the required Healthy and Effective Lifestyle (PHED100) course and the campus culture overall. PHED100 now requires weekly activity at a targeted heart rate. With the Homecoming 5K in the fall and the 65 Roses 5K in the spring, numerous students, staff, and faculty are becoming more disciplined and focused about exercise and overall health.

Beyond the official curriculum, the Lee campus is coming together around common outdoor interests as well. Associate professor of chemistry, Dr. Matthew Krepps, along with assistant professor of New Testament, Dr. Mark Proctor, spearheads the Lee University Cycling Club. With weekly rides and monthly races and tours, look for the Lee Flames cycling kit on a road near you. The student-led Outdoor Adventure Club continues to lead rock climbing trips, overnight camping, skydiving, and spelunking.

Fortunate for Lee, yet often overlooked, is the proximity of some of the best outdoor recreation in the eastern United States. In addition to the Smokies and the Ocoee, the 650,000 acres of Cherokee National Forest offer water, trails, caves, rocks, and wildlife within a thirty-minute drive. Also found in close proximity to the campus are the Cumberland Plateau and the Tennessee River.

The next time you are visiting Lee (or if you live close) come join us as we enjoy the great outdoors.

Dr. Bill Estes is chairman of the Department of Health, Exercise Science, and Secondary Education at Lee.
Arch Creates New North Gateway

Visitors for Homecoming on November 2 and 3 were among the first to view a new architectural element on the Lee University campus. Construction crews worked until the week before Homecoming on a new entrance at the north end of the Sharp Pedestrian Mall. The mall stretches four blocks from 11th to Billy Graham Avenue (formerly 15th Street) and has been in place since Lee closed the portion of Church Street in 1987.

In July a two-level former home that had been used for a variety of purposes on campus was razed creating a new open space. Crews reconfigured the area, located just behind the Science and Math Complex and adjacent to the DeVos Tennis Center, to house a new parking lot with over 40 spaces and the new North Gate Arch. The project has been the focus of fundraising by the members and alumni of Upsilon Xi. Upsilon raised $25,000 to contribute toward erection of the arch and the club helped dedicate the new parking region, said Brad Moffett, director of graduate studies in music. "Lee has a rich legacy of powerful musical ensembles, and a commitment to student podium time is a significant component of the new conducting program," said William Green, conductor of the Lee University Choral Union. "The degree focuses on practical application, with a sizeable amount of hours devoted to private conducting study with a faculty mentor and participation with existing Lee ensembles. We believe the combination of world-class faculty, excellent musical ensembles, and a commitment to student podium time make our graduate degree in conducting one of the best in our region," said Brad Moffett, director of graduate studies in music. "Lee University has a rich legacy of powerful musical ensembles, and this new graduate degree is a natural extension of that legacy. Faculty members will be actively involved in the new program, including David R. Holmesinger, professor of music and composer and conductor of the Lee University Wind Ensemble; Cameron LaBarr, assistant professor of choral music and conductor of the Lee University Choral Union; Robert Bernhardt, artist in residence and Chattanooga Symphony and Opera Music director emeritus; and William Green, conductor of the Lee University Choral Union. "Conducting degrees such as this are a part of many university music programs," said Green. "In addition to those seeking advanced degrees in conducting, it will be particularly useful for music educators seeking a more performance-based approach, or church leaders working in traditional settings. "This new program in conducting is the result of several years of dreaming, planning, and proposing," said Moffett. "I am looking forward to hearing great reports concerning our graduates and their successful careers as conductors."

Enrollment Increases to 4,954

Lee University has seen an increase in fall enrollment for the 26th consecutive year. "That’s unprecedented. We know that cannot continue forever, but we’re glad that it continued one more year," said Phil Cook, vice president for enrollment. “Our enrollment for the fall is 4,954.” This is compared to 4,411 last year.

“Our freshman class is the second largest freshman class that we have ever had at Lee—853 freshman registered this fall,” Cook said. The only class larger was last year’s freshman class of 875. Seventy-three percent of these freshmen returned to Lee for their sophomore year, according to Cook.

This year’s freshman class also has the highest average ACT score of any freshman class at Lee.

"Five years in a row we’ve seen an increase in our entrance ACT scores," Cook said.

Incoming transfer students have also contributed to the numbers. There were 236 incoming transfer students.

“We are the third largest private institution in Tennessee. We are the largest private Christ-centered university in this region," Cook said.

This year the university is including online students in its official enrollment numbers for the first time. Cook said there are more than 500 students enrolled in the new Division for Adult Learning Department.

"Adding the online students this year puts us at a significant increase, but the increase is not really that much as far as on campus," Cook said. "One factor is that the growth has been in on-campus students as well.

"The reason we decided to do it this year is because we have this brand new program," Cook said. "That has been an increasing interest in this field within the School of Music for some time," said William Green, dean of the School of Music. "With our strong tradition in conducting and ensemble performance, this is something close to our hearts."

The degree focuses on practical application, with a sizeable amount of hours devoted to private conducting study with a faculty mentor and participation with existing Lee ensembles.

"We believe the combination of world-class faculty, excellent musical ensembles, and a commitment to student podium time make our graduate degree in conducting one of the best in our region," said Brad Moffett, director of graduate studies in music. “Lee University has a rich legacy of powerful musical ensembles, and this new graduate degree is a natural extension of that legacy." Faculty members will be actively involved in the new program, including David R. Holmesinger, professor of music and composer and conductor of the Lee University Wind Ensemble; Cameron LaBarr, assistant professor of choral music and conductor of the Lee University Choral Union; Robert Bernhardt, artist in residence and Chattanooga Symphony and Opera Music director emeritus; and William Green, conductor of the Lee University Choral Union. "Conducting degrees such as this are a part of many university music programs," said Green. "In addition to those seeking advanced degrees in conducting, it will be particularly useful for music educators seeking a more performance-based approach, or church leaders working in traditional settings. "This new program in conducting is the result of several years of dreaming, planning, and proposing," said Moffett. "I am looking forward to hearing great reports concerning our graduates and their successful careers as conductors."

School of Music Announces Master of Music in Conducting

Lee University’s School of Music added a new master’s degree program this fall: the master of music in conducting (choral conducting or wind conducting). The degree will join the existing programs in graduate studies in music, which include church music, music education, and music performance.

The new conducting degree will focus on rehearsal skills, technical skills of conducting, relevant literature, and performance expertise.

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Joyanna Weber, staff writer, Cleveland Daily Banner
DeDecker Sculpture Anchors Chapel Courtyard

Last year, in celebration of Dr. Paul Conn’s 25th anniversary as president, he received many unique types of recognitions. One of the most stunning was an original statue commissioned especially for the celebration and sculpted by artist Jane DeDecker.

The statue was an anniversary project of the Board of Directors and was modeled after a tabletop sculpture called, With These Hands, originally given to Conn by members of his Cabinet. Delivered earlier this year, the statue remained incognito until late September when it was placed in a revamped courtyard space outside The Chapel.

The work joins two other original DeDecker pieces on campus, one called, A World to Teach, placed in front of the DeVos College of Education and the other one called, Prayer, mounted on the north side of the School of Religion.

DeDecker has been making a major contribution to the world of sculpture since 1986. She has created over 250 limited-edition sculptures, 60 life-sized, and four one-of-a-kind monuments. Her works are located all across the nation, including the White House.

“From the first time Dr. Conn laid eyes on DeDecker’s work, he loved it,” said Stephanie Taylor, Conn’s executive assistant. She explained how the President’s Cabinet bought the small version of the With These Hands sculpture because it represented his leadership style at Lee and tied in with one his favorite scriptures. The Board of Directors then commissioned an original revised version called The Work of Our Hands, where it was placed in the courtyard for generations to enjoy.

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The renovated courtyard and John D. Nichols Room of The Chapel were dedicated in September.

Lee Student Receives CPA Scholarship

Rachel Boggs, a senior accounting major, was chosen as a recipient of the Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants (TSCPA) Scholarship Award. Boggs is the first student from Lee to receive this award.

“It is an honor to break the ice for Lee, and I know that it will open up more doors for involvement with the organization,” said Boggs.

The goal of the scholarship committee is to encourage students to enter the accounting profession. The TSCPA scholarship is available only to students who are majoring in accounting, have completed introductory accounting courses, and have gone through the application process.

A native of Conklin, Md., Boggs moved to Cleveland, Tenn., in 2005. While at Lee, she has been involved in Phi Beta Lambda, as well as an on-campus internship in the Office of Business and Finance.

“It is an honor that a Lee student received this award,” said Gregory Della Franco, assistant professor of accounting. “We are proud Rachel was selected from students throughout Tennessee that applied for this scholarship.”

Lee Gets Top Tier Rating Once Again

Lee University junior and former president of Lee’s chapter of Phi Eta Sigma, Caleb Bell, was recently named recipient of the Phi Eta Sigma Founders Scholarship. Phi Eta Sigma, the National Honor Society for first-year students, established the Founders Scholarship Program to honor those students who exemplify scholarship, citizenship, and superior leadership.

Director of First-Year Programs and Phi Eta Sigma faculty sponsor, Dr. Eric Moyen, said of Bell, “We were really pleased that the national chapter of Phi Eta Sigma saw the same promise in Caleb that we here at Lee did. The Lee University chapter of Phi Eta Sigma seeks to identify hardworking students, and Caleb certainly fits that profile.”

Bell’s receipt of the $16,000 honorarium also established him as the first person from Lee’s chapter to receive the award. Bell said, “This scholarship is an answered prayer. When I graduate, I hope to find a job somewhere in the communications field, hopefully in New York City.” Originally from Cleveland, Tenn., Bell is a junior communications major with a journalism emphasis and a minor in telecommunications. He is presently the news editor for the Lee Clarion.
English Language Center Opens to Community

The Department of Language and Literature established the English Language Center (ELC) in September, providing language services to the public. The opening of the ELC represents Lee’s civic commitment to positively impact the greater Cleveland community. Dr. Jean Edidge, chair of Lee’s Department of Language and Literature (formerly English and Modern Foreign Languages until earlier this year), said, “The English Language Center is the fulfillment of a dream that we have had for years. It organizes and coordinates our English language services to the community and provides our students invaluable opportunities to use their training to help meet the language needs of others.”

ELC student-instructors are professionally trained in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), under the direction of Dr. Christopher Blake, assistant professor of TESOL and Linguistics at Lee. Blake said, “Instead of pulling our curriculum from a box, we design classes that address the specific language needs of our students and their goals for learning English. English learners don’t want to spend time on lessons that aren’t relevant to their immediate situation; we aren’t seeing that here because classes are focused on helping students reach their own language goals.”

For more information about the English Language Center and the classes offered, contact Blake at cblake@leeuniversity.edu.

—Ileen Dosses

Three Receive Graduate Awards

Galen Bell, James McCuskey, and Stephanie Stone were recipients of two of the highest honors in the Helen DeVos College of Education (HDCOE). These include the Claire Schimmel Superior Performance Award and the Gary L. Riggins Graduate Education Writing Award.

This was the first year two recipients were chosen for the Schimmel Award. Bell and Stone both recently completed the master of education in educational leadership program at Lee. Bell is currently teaching at East Hamilton School in Ooltewah, Tenn., while Stone is working at Cleveland Middle School focusing on its Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) program.

The Schimmels Award is presented annually in memory of Dr. Cliff Schimmels, a former professor in the HDCOE. Schimmels died in May 2001.

“I am extremely honored to have these teachers win these awards” said Dr. Gary Riggins. “They represent the best and brightest Lee has to offer, and I know that their students are in the competent hands of an exemplary educator.”

McCuskey is this year’s recipient of the Riggins Award. His thesis is titled, “Working on Your Own Time: A Study of Homework Assignment Preferences in High School Students,” and directed by Dr. Eric Moyen, director of first-year programs. Originally from Cleveland, Tenn., McCuskey is currently a teacher’s assistant at Ooltewah Middle School in Cleveland.

The award was established in honor Riggins, the longtime director of graduate programs in education. It is given annually to the graduate student who demonstrates superior writing skills and is determined by a vote of the graduate faculty.

Adjunct Professor Dies in Accident

Dr. Brandon Wood, an adjunct professor in the Music Department, was killed in an automobile accident on October 30.

In an email to the Lee University faculty and staff, President Conn said, “Brandon was one of our most accomplished student musicians who recently completed a DMA degree and has been serving as adjunct professor of percussion. He has been commuting from Lexington, Kentucky, to teach two days a week here on campus. Brandon lost his life in a single-vehicle accident as he returned to Lexington after teaching at Lee yesterday. Brandon’s wife Kellie (also a Lee grad) is obviously in special need of God’s love and our prayers; she and Brandon have a four-month-old child, Cameron.”

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

Psychology Professor Loses Battle with Cancer

Gayle Layton Gallaher, a member of the Lee faculty from 2000—2010, passed away on November 4, 2012, following a battle with brain cancer. She was an assistant professor of psychology and former director of academic support programs at Lee.

Gallaher received her B.S.Ed. from Georgia Southern University and received her M.Ed., Ed.S., and Ph.D. from the University of Georgia. She is survived by her husband Rick, and their two daughters, Kathryn Campbell and Mollie Gallaher. Prior to coming to Lee in 2000, Gayle worked in Georgia Public School Systems as a teacher and counselor before she retired as a middle school principal. Until earlier this year, Gayle helped at Signal Mountain (Tennessee) Pharmacy, the business she owned with her husband and was an active member of Signal Mountain Presbyterian Church.

Barnett Named Distinguished Professor at Lee

Dr. Robert Barnett has been awarded the rank of Distinguished Professor of History in Lee University’s College of Arts and Sciences.

“The Board of Directors awarded the title of ‘Distinguished Professor’ to Dr. Barnett because he epitomizes the talent for teaching and the commitment to students which Lee University seeks to make our distinctive,” President Conn said. “In all my years as president, I have never known any professor to receive as much spontaneous praise from students for his classroom teaching as Bob Barnett does.”

A professor at Lee since 1995, Barnett has established his reputation as an excellent teacher among students and colleagues alike. He is one of only four professors in Lee’s history to be awarded the title.

Barnett was the recipient of Lee’s Excellence in Advising Award in 1998, the Excellence in Teaching Award in 2001, and the Janet Rahmarsh Award in 2006. Prior to his arrival at Lee, Barnett was the chair of the Department of History and the director of the International Studies Division at Tennessee Wesleyan College. He was also a member of the Russian Bureau of the Tennessee Humanities Council, and project evaluator of the Tennessee Humanities Council. Barnett twice received the Faculty/Staff award at TWC, and he also twice received the Lockmiller Teacher of the Year Award.

Specializing in the Russian Revolution, Barnett also teaches courses on Modern Europe, Tudor and Stuart England, and various seminars in history. In addition to teaching, he sponsors Alpha Kappa Alpha, Lee’s chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the National History Honor Society, and serves as a national mentor for Phi Alpha Theta. He has been selected for “Who’s Who Among American Teachers” many times and has been published in Nineteenth Century, and Historiography.

“While I believe that there are many here more deserving, this is a wonderful honor and one that I truly appreciate,” shared Barnett. “I feel privileged to be part of what we do at what is a very special university. I’m excited by what Lee has become and look forward to being involved in what God has in store for the university.”
Four former Lee University athletes and an individual who contributed to the program were inducted into the 2012 Hall of Fame on November 2. The event was held in Lee’s Centenary Room and the honorees were recognized during the Homecoming basketball game the next day.

“This is one of the finest groups of athletes we have taken into the Hall,” said Lee’s Athletic Director Larry Carpenter. “They represent what our programs are all about—quality athletes and excellent students who were great members of our Lee community. We salute each of them. These honors are well earned by their solid commitment.”

Paced the Lady Flames to overall record of 96-28
Twice named NAIA All-SSAC and All-Region XIII
In 2005, scored 52 runs in 55 games
Named Second Team NAIA All-American
Fifty runs batted in, in 55 games
Set Lee season record with 13 home runs
In 2006, scored 52 runs, and had 61 runs batted in, in 69 games;
had .425 batting average;
Finished career with 27 career home runs
Team advanced to Final 8 of NAIA National Tournament for first time
Lady Flames were SSAC Champions and Region XIII Runner-up

Langner and Lady Flames made four straight appearances in NAIA National Tournaments
Career—No. 2 – All-Time Kills (1,893)
No. 7 – All-Time Kills per set (3.21)
No. 1 – All-Time Blocks (847)
No. 3 – All-Time Attack Percentage (.332)
NAIA Honorable Mention All-American (2003–2004)
Four times named NAIA All-Region XI
Four times named All-Conference (DanSouth and SSAC)
Three times named to NAIA All-American Teams
Named SSAC and Region XIII Player of the Year (2006)

**Andrew Shaver—Baseball (2004–2007)**
Career—.352 batting average in 243 games; 827 at-bats; 249 runs scored; 291 hits; 69 doubles [record going into 2012–2013 season]; 8 triples; 30 home runs; 168 runs batted in; 133 walks; 83 stolen bases
Outfielder—excellent defensive player and lead-off hitter for four years.
Overall record of four teams he played—189-68 (.735 winning percentage)
Southern States Athletic Conference Player of the Year (2006)
Twice named All-SSAC and All Region XIII
Region XIII Player of the Year (2006)
First Team NAIA All-American
Three-Time SSAC All-Academic
Two-Time NAIA Scholar-Athlete
Paul Conn Male Student-Athlete of the Year (2007)

**Rachel Tuck—Women’s Soccer (2003–2006)**
Accomplishments:
Four-time All-Conference member
Three-time All-Region XIII performer
2004 NAIA First Team All-American (Lee’s first ever)
2005 NAIA All-Tournament Team
2006 NAIA Second Team All-America
2005 and 2006 NSCAA Scholar All-American
First women’s soccer player to have jersey retired
Team had 54 shutouts with her patrolling the back line
Carried a 3.5 GPA or higher each semester at Lee.

Andrew Thomas “Radar” Smith—Meritorious Award (1975–1981)
Arriving on the Lee campus in 1975, Tommy Smith from Savannah, Ga., would almost immediately become part of the Vikings’ athletic program. Training with Lee’s head basketball coach, Earl Rowan, Smith not only served as the team trainer, but he also helped with other basketball and athletic program duties. It didn’t take the Lee students long to pin the nickname of “Radar” on him.

He traveled with basketball and other squads to cities in Florida, Mexico, and in California with the basketball team when Coach Rowan was a big winner on “The Price Is Right” television game show. His love for Lee grew as he worked to earn a bachelor’s degree in Bible education and stayed on a year after his graduation to help out with the athletic programs and attend his first year of seminary.

Smith went to Indonesia in 1983 and, almost 30 years later, continues to serve the Church of God in World Missions. He is an ordained bishop in the Church of God and currently serves a dual role as the missionary representative to Indonesia and regional superintendent of the Southern Pacific, including Singapore, Malaysia, Taiwan, and Hong Kong.
The Lady Flames will begin their drive toward a fifth straight national championship on November 3 in Southern States Athletic Conference tournament play. Yelton’s club is ranked No. 2 by the NAIA coaches. The team’s only regular-season defeat came at the hands of Embry-Riddle (Fla.) in the second match of the season.

As of November 10, the women’s soccer team was 17-1-1 and ranked No. 1 by the NAIA. They claimed the title of SSAC regular season champs, as well as winning the SSAC tournament. Junior Leah Fortune was named SSAC Player of Year, sophomore Laura Thacker garnered the SSAC Defensive Player of Year, and Head Coach Matt Yelton was named SSAC Coach of the Year. At press time, the team was headed to the national tournament in Orange Beach, Ala.


Winning has been the name of the game since Marty Rowe took over the Lee women’s basketball job back in 2004. Heading into the 2012–2013 season, his Lady Flames have posted 357 wins against just 114 defeats.

Rowe’s club will be gunning for nine consecutive 20-win seasons. No Rowe-coached Lee team has ever lost more than 12 games in one season. In fact, since 2004–2005, no Rowe team has lost more than seven times in a year. “This year’s team has a chance to be really good,” Rowe said. “We want to continue to strive to take our program to that next level. Without a doubt, winning the SSAC regular season and tournament will mean an awful lot to our team, but I think just continuing on daily improvements will let this team function at a very high level. That’s what it is all about—peaking in March!”

The Lady Flames have three players returning that started the majority of the games last season, and the top reserve is also back. Second-team All-American guard Hollie German established herself as one of the NAIA’s best last season, averaging almost 17 points per game. Jenna Adams could be a key in helping the Lady Flames make a deep run in postseason play, while no one doubts the athletic ability of senior Mary Jackson who has all the needed tools.

The coach points out that depth will be a big key for his club, especially with players he has returning for another year. “Obviously, we feel like we have one of the best players in the country in Hollie (German), and we have her surrounded with a quality supporting cast,” said Rowe. The roster shows 10 letter winners back from last season, including juniors Rachel Lockhart, Myriah Iles, and Karley Miller. Also, senior Julia Zimmerman is a deadly outside shooter.
Heade Men’s Basketball Coach Tommy Brown is hoping a solid mixture of returning players, new recruits, and additions to his staff will help produce another winner in Southern States Athletic Conference and NAIA play.

Brown began his eighth season at Lee this year. His first seven teams have claimed over 20 wins, and all have advanced to the NAIA National Tournament in Kansas City. “With this being our last year in NAIA, we want to make sure that we go into NCAA Division II by making Lee University proud of what our men’s basketball team is able to accomplish,” said Brown.

David Vospie is replacing Josh Templeton as the chief assistant coach. Former Flame Matt Stilwell will be an assistant and the junior varsity coach, while Josh Ross is student assistants.

Steve Renfrett (6-10, 285) heads a list of returners that Brown will be counting on for leadership and consistent play. The senior also averaged six rebounds per game last season in NAIA play.

Sophomore wing player Chad Lee was selected to the SSAC All-Freshman Team last season, and senior post player Patrick Shaughnessy (6-9, 230) recorded 33 blocks in 2011-2012 and is seeking to improve those numbers during his final season. “A basketball season is a marathon, not a sprint,” Brown has said many times. “This club appears to have some speed and athleticism, but it is way too early to tell how good we can be,” he added. However, a quick glance at the preseason roster shows eight players in the height range from 6-foot-5 to 7-foot. There is quickness and solid shooter in the backcourt.

With the Flames leaving the NAIA and the SSAC after this season, many of the conference rivals could be putting something extra on the table when Lee comes calling. Over the years, battles with Auburn-Montgomery, Emmanuel, Southern Poly, and Brenau-Parker have never been easy. With the teams from the SSAC West added to the conference schedule for the third year, Mobile, Loyola, Bethhaven, and William Carey will present challenges.

This season Coastal Georgia enters the SSAC All-Academic Team. Earning the Musco Lighting Champions of Character Team designation were Ashley Matthews and Zach Orrison. Head Coach Don Jayroe was honored as the SSAC Women’s Cross Country Coach of the Year.

Drive to the NCAA: Cretton Plays Key Role in NCAA Process

When Lee made the final decision to move from the NAIA to NCAA Division II, one of the first steps in beginning the transition was finding the right person to lead the compliance department.

“One of the first persons I thought of was Paul Cretton,” said Athletic Director Larry Carpenter. “I’ve watched Paul over the years as a successful student athlete, basketball coach, director of athletics, and assistant principal, and I knew he had all the qualities we were looking for to lead our compliance sector.”

Added Carpenter: “We knew this person would first and foremost need to understand the mission of Lee and especially the Athletic Department. He would have to be a person of integrity who had the ability to read and digest a book full of regulations, and then interpret them to a staff that virtually had no prior involvement with the NCAA. He would need to possess great organizational and leadership skills and be strong enough to make tough decisions should an infraction occur.”

After serving as Lee’s junior varsity coach and a varsity assistant under Flames’ head men’s basketball coach Tommy Brown for one year, Cretton agreed to accept the new challenge. The former Lee Viking is only a couple of years from retiring from the Bradley County education system after 30 successful years in coaching and administration.

As described by Carpenter, Cretton will be asked to oversee all aspects of NCAA compliance. He is currently leading educational sessions with Lee’s coaches and staff members and is being called on to interact with Gulf South Conference (GSC) and NCAA officials. He will also interact with various departments on the Lee campus that will be directly involved in the eligibility process.

“After graduating from Lee in 1981, I took great pride in watching the growth of the university, as well as many successes,” said Cretton. “I feel very fortunate to be back at Lee as the compliance coordinator. It is exciting to be a part of the transition from NAIA to NCAA.”

Lee Men and Women Runners Earn Recognitions

The Lee Lady Flames cross country team claimed its second SSAC Championship in the past three years, and the Flames finished as the runner-up at the 2012 SSAC Cross Country Championships.

As a result of their performances at the conference meet, the Lady Flames earned an automatic berth, while Mike Walker and Said Ahmed earned at-large berths to the 2012 NAIA Cross Country Championships. The event was held in Vancouver, Wash., on November 17.

Cayce Bryan, Jessica Childers, Alexis Hewitt, Walker, and Ahmed all earned spots on the SSAC All-Conference Team.

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After serving as Lee’s junior varsity coach and a varsity assistant under Flames’ head men’s basketball coach Tommy Brown for one year, Cretton agreed to accept the new challenge. The former Lee Viking is only a couple of years from retiring from the Bradley County education system after 30 successful years in coaching and administration.

As described by Carpenter, Cretton will be asked to oversee all aspects of NCAA compliance. He is currently leading educational sessions with Lee’s coaches and staff members and is being called on to interact with Gulf South Conference (GSC) and NCAA officials. He will also interact with various departments on the Lee campus that will be directly involved in the eligibility process.

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Lee Men and Women Runners Earn Recognitions

The Lee Lady Flames cross country team claimed its second SSAC Championship in the past three years, and the Flames finished as the runner-up at the 2012 SSAC Cross Country Championships.

As a result of their performances at the conference meet, the Lady Flames earned an automatic berth, while Mike Walker and Said Ahmed earned at-large berths to the 2012 NAIA Cross Country Championships. The event was held in Vancouver, Wash., on November 17.

Cayce Bryan, Jessica Childers, Alexis Hewitt, Walker, and Ahmed all earned spots on the SSAC All-Conference Team.

Added Carpenter: “We knew this person would first and foremost need to have the ability to read and digest a book full of regulations, and then interpret them to a staff that virtually had no prior involvement with the NCAA. He would need to possess great organizational and leadership skills and be strong enough to make tough decisions should an infraction occur.”

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Volleyball Team Wins SSAC Tournament

After losing six seniors that started for four years, Lee volleyball coaches Andrea and Kevin Hudson have combined to almost completely rebuild the 2012 squad. The process began by pitting the Lady Flames up against several of the NAIA perennial powers.

During the first month of play, Lee faced seven teams currently ranked in the top 14 of the weekly coaches poll. “We wanted to show our newcomers what they would be facing as we advanced in tournament play,” said Coach Andrea Hudson, who recorded her 700th coaching win (all at Lee) on Aug. 25. The Lady Flames have reached the final four of the NAIA National Tournament for three consecutive years.

The 2012 squad holds wins over Westmont and Vanguard (Calif.) and Embry-Riddle (Fla.). Lee whipped NCAA Division III power Emory University twice and stands at 10-1 in Southern States Athletic Conference action. Three returnees have helped direct the team toward another 30-win campaign. Junior Irene Ojukwu, sophomore Marija Zelenovic, and junior Libby Peigen have been mainstays, while newcomers Paula Martins and Camil Martinez have stepped in with freshman Nicole Sumida to keep the club on a winning course.

The Lady Flames ended their regular season with a record of 28-9 and were headed to the national tournament in Sioux City, Iowa, slated for November 26–December 1.

Men’s Soccer Team Reaches Out

Coach Paul Furey and his Lee men’s soccer team “earned a lot of new fans,” said Reading Support Instructor Becky Ackley after the Flames took part in a recent Accelerated Reader event at the local Oak Grove Elementary School.

“The coaches and players presented a mini-camp with students in grades K-5,” said Ackley. “They also promoted the importance of reading by sharing books about soccer with the students. Coach Furey was wonderful to work with, and the players and assistant coaches did a fantastic job with the students.”

Said Furey: “We had a special day with the students at Oak Grove. Our players read books to the students and conducted soccer clinics. We enjoy reaching out and giving back to the community.”

On the playing field, the Flames were 7-6-1 as of mid-October and hold key victories over Embry-Riddle (Fla.) and William Carey (Miss.). Lee dropped a heartbreaking two-overtime decision to fifth-ranked Auburn-Montgomery. Senior Sias Reyneke, who is a two-time NAIA scholar, and junior Josh Ball have placed the Flames on offense, while seniors Luke Cuthbert and Marvin Ochieng have been key defenders.

Lee participated in SSAC tourney play on November 3, and the conference held its final four in Montgomery, Ala. on November 8-10. Montgomery is also hosting the national tournament on November 26–December 1.

If You Attended Lee, You’re an Alum!

A common misconception is that if you didn’t graduate from Lee, you’re not an alumnus (male) or alumna (female). The truth is, all that is required is at some point to have enrolled in classes, and you’re part of Lee University alumni, no matter when you were here!

Help us hear from you.

Send us your news: weddings, special anniversaries, new jobs, promotions, educational accomplishments, retirements, births, awards... you name it! We would love to showcase your pictures as well. Don’t forget to include the last year you attended Lee.

The easiest way is to visit www.leeuniversity.edu, click on the Alumni and Friends link and then “alumni updates.” You can also email your update and photos to alumniupdates@leeuniversity.edu or mail your entry to Lee University Alumni Relations, P.O. Box 3450, Cleveland, TN 37320-3450 or send us your update on Facebook or Twitter!

Who’s WHERE & Torch Travels

Richard Rawlings '59, of Debary, FL, died on August 28, 2011. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Betty ‘59, son Randy ‘84, and his wife, Sandra Bevil Rawlings ‘84, and daughter Robin Rawlings Lester ‘87. He is also survived by four grandchildren. Bud was a member of the Riverwalk Church of God in Sanford, FL, and was a Kentucky Colonel.

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1980s–1990s

Kevin Ross ’90 is employed at the Y-12 Plant in Oak Ridge, Tenn. as a plant shift superintendent. He is married to Cynthia, and they have two sons. Kevin says, “I hope my son chooses Lee—you can’t beat the commitment the professors have for developing our kids into leaders.” He and Lee were involved enough to actually call me into their offices and pray with me! I have been able to have lifelong friendships created. It would be good to hear from some of our Lee friends. We can be reached at parsonandwife@sbcglobal.net. Blessings to all of you.”

Raymond Pettit ’73 has retired after 30 years of teaching and now serves as the national vice president of Cleansing Stream Ministries based in Los Angeles, Calif. It is a ministry started by Jack Hayford at Church on the Way in Van Nuys. Pettit says, “Lee still remains one of the most pivotal and rewarding times in my life. I could not imagine my life now without Lee being a major impact for me personally and my ministry.”

David ’82 and Wanda Cato Brett ’80 are living in Summerfield, Fla., where David is executive pastor at a local church. Previously they served at a church in Beaumont, Texas, for more than nine years.

1990s

Shawn Pritchett ’97 lives in Old Fort, Tenn., is married to Lisa Morrisson Pritchett, and they have two sons. Shawn holds a master’s degree and an educational specialist in instructional leadership and teaching in Chattanooga, Ga. at the Murray County STEM Academy. Shawn was recently elected to the Polk County Board of Education. You can find Shawn on Facebook or email him at King.jobo@yahoo.com.

2000s

Courtney Ashley ’98 married Andrew Van Horn on September 22, 2012. She works and has lived in Atlanta, Ga., for the past five years. She is an account executive for CS STARS through Marsico/Cleemann.

Sherri Brasher ’00 is a full-time missionary with Youth With A Mission (YWAM), currently serving in San Diego, Calif. Sherri helps facilitate short-term missions trips to Mexico, Dominican Republic, and Costa Rica. Sherri says, “We build approximately 150 houses for families in Baja and around the world each year through Homes of Hope, and to date, I have been able to assist with over 20 homes. We also host thousands of students introducing them to missions through our ministry called Mission Adventures.”

Tonia Crissey Hanks ’00 is a former elementary and secondary French teacher. She is currently a stay-at-home mom and independent consultant for Mary Kay. She and her husband, George, live in Trappe, Penn., with their young daughter and attend the Spring City Church of God in Spring City, Penn.

George ’00 and Paula Otero Taylor ’00 live in Waxachiche, Tex., with their new son, Benjamin Levi, born in January 2012. Both George and Paula have graduated from Lee University, and currently George is pursuing his doctoral degree (Ph.D.) in renewal studies at Regent University.

Crystal Fleming Wadlin ’01 lives in Carrollton, GA after living and teaching in Tennessee and California for several years. Crystal is taking time off from teaching to be with her two secondary school-aged sons. She is married to Scott.

Julie Millii ’02 recently completed her seventh time around the world working with Discipleship Training School in YWAM (Youth With A Mission). The school is based in New Zealand and then goes to many nations before a graduation on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. Prior to her time with YWAM, Julie was a graphic designer in Nashville. Julie says, “My years at Lee were precious to me. The study abroad trips to Ecuador and Cambridge were huge inspirations to my life!”

Ashley Blackwell Beard ’03 is living in Royston, Ga., with her husband, Kane, and their two children. Ashley is in her eighth year as a middle school counselor.

Adam Morrow ’11 is living in Philadelphia, Penn. where he is a graduate student majoring in higher education administration at the University of Pennsylvania.
Letter to the Editor

Thank you for making Torch an informative and inspirational record of events at Lee University. While Torch does a great job of reporting important news today, it will remain a vital source for those in the future who look back at the phenomenal progress of the university.

I noted with great interest the list in the Fall 2012 issue of Church of God general overseers who had attended Lee. It reminded me of an interview with Lee’s first teacher, Nora Chambers, that was published in the Lighted Pathway [June 1949, p. 14] near the end of her life. When asked about some of her outstanding students she reported, “Some of my most outstanding pupils are: John C. Jernigan, former general overseer of the Churches of God; Hallie Chesser, present general overseer; [and] Zeno C. Tharp, assistant general overseer.” Zeno Tharp went on to serve as general overseer following Hallie Chesser. Her comments reflect how significant the Lee experience has been to developing leadership in the Church of God.

David G. Roebuck, Ph.D.
Director, Dixon Pentecostal Research Center
Assistant Professor of the History of Christianity
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Church of God Historian
Now accepting applications for Fall 2013

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