Lee University: Job Creator
Lee’s growth has created opportunities for new offices, departments, and careers which have changed the face of a Lee University experience. By Cameron Fisher

Soccer Gets the “4-Peat”
The Lady Flames soccer team accomplished the unprecedented when they captured a fourth straight national title.

Saying “I Do” in the New Chapel
Two weddings, chock-full of Lee alumni marked the first weekend of weddings held in the new Lee University Chapel.

OPENING THOUGHTS: Dr. Paul Conn

In early September 1963, I enrolled as a nervous seventeen-year-old freshman at Lee College. In those days, Lee had a first-night worship service called “Formal Opening.” There was actually nothing particularly formal about it; it was just an opening chapel service with a little music and a sermon by a guest speaker.

The speaker that night was a young pastor from Atlanta, Paul L. Walker, who was then barely in his thirties, and when he preached to that crowd of eager students, he served up a blend of style, passion, and intelligence which I had never seen or heard before. I still remember his topic: that night, and the way he lit up the old Lee Auditorium. What I didn’t know, couldn’t know, was that that would become one of the most important people in my life—a mentor, friend, role model—and that forty-nine years later, as he celebrated his 80th birthday, he would have created a legacy as one of the most important individuals alive in the development of the Lee University which both of us love.

Walker was a Lee student in 1949-51. He was one of those campus stars who did everything: president of the student body and the honor society, played piano and trumpet for the college’s band, starred in intramural basketball, and his classmates officially voted him “Mr. Lee College” (yes, they actually did that kind of thing back in the 50’s). Later, as a young minister, he served on the Lee alumni board, and returned to campus often to preach in chapel and convocations. As his ministry matured, he was appointed to the Board of Directors, then became Chairman of the Board, and ultimately, while he was the chief executive of the Church of God denomination, he served as the official liaison between the denomination and the president’s office.

More important than any of those official roles, however, was Walker’s spiritual and intellectual impact on my generation of leaders, and the next generation after us. For thousands of us, he became the voice we trusted within our denomination. Starting that fall night in 1963, I began to see the church through the lens of Paul Walker’s vision, and it was a positive, powerful vision of change and faithfulness which shaped our generation in a deep and permanent way.

As an institution, Lee University has never slipped off Paul Walker’s radar screen. He has always vigorously advanced its interests, and as pastor of the Mount Paran Church of God, was always first to step up to support Lee financially. The institution has always recognized and honored his loyalty; he was named Distinguished Alumnus in 1983 and was awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters degree in 1989. His wife Carmelita and he watched their son Paul Dana graduate from Lee, and later dedicated the athletic arena in his memory. Another son, Dr. Mark Walker, currently serves on the Board of Directors. One grandchild is already a Lee grad; another is a current student. In one way or another, Lee has always been part of their lives.

Last month, Dr. Paul L. Walker turned eighty. He was determined to pass that milestone as quietly as possible, so there were no big parties or celebrations. To those of us who see him in his memory. Another son, Dr. Mark Walker, currently serves on the Board of Directors. One grandchild is already a Lee grad; another is a current student. In one way or another, Lee has always been part of their lives.

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Lee University TORCH

Torch magazine is the official publication of Lee University, Cleveland, Tennessee. It is intended to inform, educate, and give insight to alumni, parents, and friends of the university. It is published quarterly and mailed free to all alumni of the university. Other subscriptions are available by calling the alumni office at 423-614-8336.
To succeed, basic business principles dictate a concentration first on a bottom line of meeting the basic needs of a business or retail establishment. When the business grows and prospers, it allows for better services, more opportunities for diversity, a freedom to be creative in product offerings—and—the creation of new jobs.

For colleges and universities, the same basic principles apply. Keeping the doors of the classrooms open, employing competent faculty, and offering basic student services are the staples of a college experience. When an institution is able to move beyond the “staples” to a higher level of performance, creativity, and student offerings, the value of the educational dollar goes up dramatically.

Over the last two decades, Lee University has been blessed to look beyond that proverbial “bottom line,” to an unprecedented place in its history. A student body, quadruple in size from just a quarter century ago coupled with the generosity of friends and alumni, has allowed for new programs, which also launches careers as new positions are birthed to accomplish the expanded mission.

Nadine Goff came to Lee in 1999 as assistant to the dean of the Curtisinger School of Music after retiring from teaching public school for 22 years. Not expecting to launch a second career, it wasn’t long until growth of the School of Music and the increase in number of performance events, caused Nadine’s position to change to director of Music Events and Special Projects. The job includes a plethora of responsibilities involved with promoting and managing Lee University music performance events. These include the Presidential Concert Series and Squires Hall Series, large and small ensemble concerts, guest artist events, student junior and senior recitals, and any other event scheduled through the School of Music that is classified as a music performance event. In addition, there are numerous retreats, special dinners for music personnel or students, preparation for annual accreditation visits, and managing logistics for events hosted by the School of Music.

“Music, both classical and sacred, has been such an integral part of Lee University that there are few lives on campus that have not been touched by the many sounds of it emanating from the School of Music and the impressive list of guest artists hosted by the University.” Goff stated.

Josh York is a great example. Hired in 2003, Josh is director of Facilities Management. The position has evolved from the original post of house manager for the Conn Center. In 1992, the Dixon Center was built and added to the portfolio. Today, the director of Facilities Management includes Conn and Dixon Centers, Squires Recital Hall, and most recently the Lee University chapel. The position also includes technical support for the Church Street Annex auditorium—the former First Baptist Church.

“Without this office, we would not have the ability to provide quality support for important events like Chapel, Convocation, U-Church, Lee Day, Homecoming, and so much more,” York stated. “I have been blessed to be given the opportunity to work with leadership at Lee that encourages and strives for excellence on a daily basis.”

The Leonard Center serves as the clearinghouse for Lee’s service-learning program. The team serves students and faculty in developing meaningful service opportunities and provides oversight to the student food bank, Campus Kitchen, and a service council comprised of student-led outreach organizations such as Crossover and The Backyard.

William B. Lamb is director of the Leonard Center. Appointed in 2010, he has been with the program since 2003 when he came to Lee as director of field experiences. “The Leonard Center has positively affected the Lee culture,” Lamb said. “It provides a platform for the Lee community to teach the ideals of service to others as a human responsibility.”
A burgeoning graduate program prompted Vicki A. Glasscock to return to Lee in 2006 to assume the newly created role of director of Graduate Enrollment. The office works with each of the graduate programs and departments in the areas of graduate admissions, recruitment, marketing, and promotion. In addition, the office coordinates graduate recruitment events, training, marketing plans and promotional materials, coordinates graduate scholarships, and assists in the establishment of graduate admissions policies and procedures. Since the creation of the office in 2006, graduate enrollment has experienced continuous growth with an overall increase of 37 percent.

Graduate Enrollment

Beth Thompson serves in the office of Global Perspectives. Lee offers 25-30 Global Perspectives trips annually, led by credentialed faculty as economical and rewarding cross-cultural experiences. Every student must complete an academic and cultural experience to graduate. Since the inception of this requirement, Lee has become a national leader in study abroad programming. The Global Perspectives Program is responsible for making these opportunities not just available, but consistently diverse, practical, and impactful.

"As faith-based educators, we have an ethical responsibility to demonstrate for students that there are other ways of knowing and thinking and to carefully structure and encourage opportunities for them to learn in diverse settings." Thompson stated. "Through Global Perspectives, thousands of Lee students who had their lives transformed, many of whom are now teaching and working around the globe."

Global Perspectives

Vicki A. Glasscock

A generation ago, Lee students visited the counseling and testing office to begin exploration of a career field beyond the walls of Lee College. Today, the Center for Calling & Career exists to provide resources for students, faculty and staff to examine their strengths and discover a clearer sense of their calling. The CCC&CC provides a developmental approach to making career decisions through StrengthsQuest, a revolutionary program that allows students to focus on their strengths rather than weaknesses. The departmental founding scripture is Ephesians 2:10: For we are all God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do (NIV).

Director Stacy Ballinger says, "Top achievers understand their talents and strengths, and build their lives upon them. We believe everyone has a vocational passion waiting to be unleashed. The goal is to encourage students to discover that passion."

Center for Calling & Career

Stacy Ballinger

A growing and more diverse staff and faculty—including employees of all ages and stages of life—prompted the establishment of the Early Learning Center. Alicia Klepper, director of Child Care, has been in the position for five and a half years.

The ELC, or Early Learning Center, is a wall-to-wall, state-certified, full-time childcare operation that serves children of Lee University faculty and staff. The oversight of 56 children from infancy to preschool is carried out with special attention to educational programming and is located in the Church Street Annex, a facility perfectly suited for this purpose.

"Our goal at the ELC is to bring a level of care which is second to none to these littlest members of the Lee family," Alicia said. "(We) want to do it efficiently, affordably and cheerfully. We serve families in all parts of the university structure, and so our thread is truly woven through the whole cloth. Investing in children is our calling here, and for those children and parents that we serve, we feel our work makes a big difference."

Early Learning Center

Alicia Klepper

Alicia says, "Having input and involvement in so many different events across campus is both challenging and fulfilling. It is a blessing to be part of the signature moments on campus that makes this such a very special place. When you are able to do what you enjoy as your assignment, it never truly feels like a job… it feels more like a reward."

Summer Camps: Kim Brooks coordinates summer camps that bring in more than 10,000 students.

Employee Benefits

Jason Herndon is the Employee Benefits coordinator at Lee. Because of Lee’s growth and success, the university is able to offer expanded benefits programs to many more employees. Managing the task has become a full-time job. Jason’s area of focus is ensuring Lee employees are properly informed of and enrolled in benefits plans as they become eligible and that those plans are administered within various legal and carrier guidelines. Additionally, the office delivers the university wellness program, HealthQuest, working with the director of Human Resources to improve processes and address issues brought to HR’s attention.

"The area of benefits administration is one that offers a tangible opportunity to provide service to most university employees," Jason stated. "To be offering something that is going to help them in their personal lives is very rewarding."

Summer Camps: Kim Brooks coordinates summer camps that bring in more than 10,000 students.
After-hours activities for students are one of those "staples" of college life, but the lack thereof can make or break a student’s experience. As Lee’s enrollment skyrocketed, so did the demand for more intramural softball leagues, ping-pong tournaments, workout areas, and the staff to handle it all. Director of Campus Recreation Kevin Hudson started in 1995 with such tasks as coordinating intramural tournaments. Today, the office employs a full-time intramural coordinator, as well as a facilities coordinator for the many recreational venues that have sprung up in the last 20 years.

“We handle all things recreational,” Kevin says. These include outdoor adventures, intramural sports, group and personal fitness, and sports clubs. In addition to the programs, Kevin and his staff oversee the DeVos Recreation Center, DeVos Tennis Center, Souther Field, Operations Field, and the Carroll Court Recreation Field.

“Healthier people are happier people,” Hudson says. “We provide both structured and informal opportunities for our campus community to enhance their personal fitness. Our intramural sports program has become one of the premier programs in the region, comparable to many larger universities. It connects our students and provides a great outlet physically and socially.”

Gone are the days at Lee when the academic dean and his/her staff easily ordered robes and diplomas for a handful of students who crossed the stage once a year and his/her staff easily ordered robes and diplomas for a handful of students who crossed the stage once a year. Today, the office serves as conductor of the orchestra,” McMullin mused. “We feel the weight of the responsibility, but we are honored to serve and help create that perfect day for our graduates.”

Office of Academic Events

While every academic, social, and business aspect of the Lee University experience is vital, this cross-section of offices established and careers created through Lee’s success demonstrates how far Lee has progressed in the world of collegiate academia.

**Campus Recreational Events**

Cleveland Mayor Tom Rowland, right, presents a replica of the street sign to Gigi Graham during the luncheon.

**Campus Street Dedicated as Billy Graham Avenue**

Virginia “Gigi” Graham, the eldest daughter of world-famous evangelist Billy Graham, was a special guest on the Lee campus on February 24 for the official dedication of Billy Graham Avenue. The street, which borders a portion of the north side of the Lee campus from Parker to Ocoee streets, is the only fifth in the United States to be sanctioned by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association to carry the name. Graham represented her father for the ceremony where a ribbon was cut on three blocks of the former 15th Street, which was renamed four years ago. A young Billy Graham was a student at Bob Jones College in 1936 when its campus was located in Cleveland, on the current Lee campus. Evangelist Graham has written about his brief time at Bob Jones as a period when he worked at a downtown shoe store, rededicated his life and call to ministry, and where he preached his first two sermons at nearby churches. Graham worshiped at Cleveland’s First Presbyterian Church.

“Daddy had not been a Christian very long when he was enrolled here,” Gigi Graham told a gathering of approximately 200 guests at a luncheon. “He has good memories of his time in Cleveland, such as the wonderful hospitality of the community.” Ms. Graham referred to some difficult times her father encountered while he was a student at Bob Jones. In his writings, Graham refers to being in the president’s office (Bob Jones) to tell the president of his intentions to transfer. The meeting took place in the same room where Lee University President Dr. Paul Conn’s office is now located.

“God used some of the circumstances from here to shape my father’s life and ministry,” Ms. Graham concluded. “Just As I Am,” perhaps the most recognizable hymn associated with the Billy Graham Crusades. Ms. Graham completed her visit with a walking tour through Medlin Hall, where she tentatively identified the room where her father lived, based on his recollections from 1986. Following the presentations, the crowd adjourned to the street where a ribbon was cut by Ms. Graham. Special music was provided by the Voices of Lee who sang a medley of songs connected with Graham’s ministry. The group concluded the outdoor ceremony with an a cappella rendition of ‘Just As I Am.’ Ms. Graham completed her visit with a walking tour through Medlin Hall, where she tentatively identified the room where her father lived, based on his recollections from 1986. Following the presentations, the crowd adjourned to the street where a ribbon was cut by Ms. Graham. Special music was provided by the Voices of Lee who sang a medley of hymns associated with the Billy Graham Crusades. Ms. Graham completed her visit with a walking tour through Medlin Hall, where she tentatively identified the room where her father lived, based on his recollections from 1986. Following the presentations, the crowd adjourned to the street where a ribbon was cut by Ms. Graham. Special music was provided by the Voices of Lee who sang a medley of hymns associated with the Billy Graham Crusades. Ms. Graham completed her visit with a walking tour through Medlin Hall, where she tentatively identified the room where her father lived, based on his recollections from 1986. Following the presentations, the crowd adjourned to the street where a ribbon was cut by Ms. Graham. Special music was provided by the Voices of Lee who sang a medley of hymns associated with the Billy Graham Crusades. Ms. Graham completed her visit with a walking tour through Medlin Hall, where she tentatively identified the room where her father lived, based on his recollections from 1986.
When it comes to purchasing textbooks, it wasn’t long ago that Lee students had basically one option: buy your books down the street at the Pathway Bookstore. If you were lucky, you might find a gently used version for somewhat of a markdown, but more than likely, the choice was to pay full price. Then, if you were so inclined, once the semester was over, you might be able to sell it back at a greatly reduced price . . . if there was not going to be a revised edition next year.

The textbook industry is evolving, changing the way students choose, purchase, and consume their textbooks. In addition to the growing use of technology in the classroom, a disturbing trend, revealing that many students were foregoing buying any course materials in hopes of staying within a tight budget, demanded affordable alternatives. To help combat the rising cost of higher education and meet the needs of today’s tech-savvy students, both rental and digital programs are now available on campus and online through the Lee University Bookstore. If you were lucky, you might find a gently used version for somewhat of a markdown, but more than 950 bookstores nationwide and provides management systems, support services, and used textbooks to over 1,800 independently managed bookstores.

“Our key concern was making sure that students have access to the materials they need to succeed in the classroom,” said Lee’s vice president for Business and Finance, Chris Conine. “We partnered with Follett to provide an exceptional local, full-service campus store, which will cater to both our school and students’ individual needs by providing an assortment of affordable options and convenient access in-store and online.”

In addition to the largest selection of used textbooks in the industry, the Lee University Bookstore provides cost-saving programs like Follett Higher Education Group’s Rent-A-Text, the nation’s largest textbook rental program, and the recently updated digital textbook platform CafeScribe®. More students than ever are renting their textbooks with Rent-A-Text to take advantage of savings of, on average, 50 percent or more compared to the price of a new textbook. Rent-A-Text is expected to save students in the U.S. and Canada more than $200 million in the 2011–2012 academic year. While a majority of students still prefer to purchase or rent printed texts, Follett’s CafeScribe® represents great savings of 40 to 60 percent off the cost of buying new . . . and a much lighter backpack to boot. The newest version of CafeScribe® was released last fall, providing better study tools, greater accessibility, and more titles than ever before. Taking another step forward, Follett recently updated the mobile application for CafeScribe®, making it easier for students to study, highlight, and take notes on-the-go.

CafeScribe® has been or is currently used by about half a million users on almost 40 percent of all college campuses across the United States. Lee students are already taking advantage of the application’s valuable study tools by highlighting, creating bookmarks, and utilizing Snap Summary, which allows users to quickly and easily compile their notes and highlights into an all-inclusive, summarized study and reference guide. To provide students with the opportunity to experiment with digital for free, Follett offers three-day trials for most titles. The company created the Try Now, Buy Later program, because it found that after using digital textbooks, two-thirds of students preferred the option.

“Each student is unique, and there are multiple factors that can affect whether a student chooses new, used, rental, or digital textbooks, including how they learn, what classes they’re taking, and where they’re enrolled. Each of these options can be further explored in the campus store or online via efollett.com.”

“Skip and his entire team do a great job of helping our students navigate the affordable options available at the bookstore,” said Conine. “Lee University continues to partner with Follett to expand the bookstore’s offerings and ensure that we meet the needs of our students.”

Additional information regarding Follett’s Rent-A-Text and CafeScribe® programs can be found at www.rent-a-text.com and www.cafescribe.com.
Chick-fil-A® Renovated in PCSU

In an on-going effort to bring the best food services to Lee students, the Chick-fil-A® and Simply to Go retail locations in the Paul Conn Student Union were closed between Thanksgiving and the start of the spring semester. The site was upgraded to a full-service Chick-fil-A®, offering a larger space and more meal choices.

Lee students, faculty, and staff can now purchase such Chick-fil-A® favorites as the spicy chicken sandwich, milk shakes, Icecream®, and the restaurant’s full breakfast menu.

“These renovations were the final pieces of Lee’s retail dining changes that took place last summer and opened last semester,” stated Chris Conine, vice president for Business and Finance. The new franchises available on campus include Subway® (Paul Conn Student Union), Einstein Bros® Bagels (Humanities Center), and Dunkin’ Donuts® (Science Complex).

Pfahl Returns to Lead Community Relations

Ellie Pfahl ’11 wasn’t gone long before she was asked to return to her alma mater to the position of director of Community Relations, a post within the school’s University Relations sector.

Originally from Acworth, Ga., Pfahl earned her bachelor’s degree in public relations and served as an intern in community relations. She was working in Texas before accepting the invitation to return to Lee’s administrative team. “Ellie was a standout intern,” said Merica Stum, the former director, who has taken the position as director of the annual alumni fund [see story this issue]. “Ellie’s track record made the search easy. There was not an aspect of community relations that Ellie did not participate in as an intern. She was a natural choice to come in as director.” Lee’s community relations office was created in 2003 and supervises such programs as Encore, an educational enrichment opportunity for learners 60 and up, BEST partnerships with local elementary schools, and working with neighborhood and other public initiatives.

“Ask the President” Chapel Becomes a Highlight of the Semester

Lee students sat with eager anticipation on Tuesday, January 24, as President Conn answered questions gathered from the student body during “Ask the President” chapel.

During the event, Conn lets loose his more comical side and answers questions that have been written and turned in by members of the student body. Typically, this chapel service consists of all sorts of questions, from serious queries about the campus to Conn’s assisting in sending male and female students on dates.

January 24’s “Ask the President” brought along with the fun and games several weighty announcements. The three most important notices were the future building of a home for the Communication Arts Department, the completion of fund-raising for the chapel, and the choice to renew the contract with Coca-Cola as the sole beverage company on campus. The purpose of “Ask the President” chapel is threefold: to inform, to entertain, and to give students things. Originally, the service was used to inform the student body about their university, but when some students started asking “whimsical questions,” the lightened nature of “Ask the President” caught on, Conn said.

“The goal really is to imbibe in all the fun and foolishness some serious ideas. There’s always some serious questions,” Conn said. “Ask the President” chapel services began shortly after Conn became president and have been occurring for about 20 years. It has grown to be one of the more popular traditions on campus. There have been a number of significant and memorable moments throughout “Ask the President” history, such as the year administration changed Squires Library’s hours on Sundays due to a student’s request for the extended hours. Other changes include a $300,000 revamp of the pianos in the School of Music in the summer of 2010, and construction of a sidewalk over the infamous “Ditch of Death” near Brinsfield Row. Other memorable moments include the year Conn called all Canadian students to the front to sing “O Canada” after a student asked why the Canadian flag is not displayed during chapel services, and Conn revealing an individual in a SpongeBob Squarepants costume dancing behind the curtain at the back of the Conn Center stage. Santa Claus took the place of SpongeBob when a new student asked the repeat question this year.

In spite of the fun nature of “Ask the President,” Conn views the primary reason for the event as a chance for students to talk back to him. Although students can always send an email to Conn at pconn@leeuniversity.edu, the anonymity allowed by “Ask the President” and the solicitation of questions drives students who normally would not voice their opinion to ask the questions that have been bugging them, Conn said.

“It’s as much about me hearing from the students as students hearing from me. The context of “Ask the President” empowers,” Conn said. “It lets me hear from students in a way that is a little different from normal.” Whether students are freshmen just beginning to experience Lee traditions or a senior well-familiar with Lee’s rituals, “Ask the President” chapel is a service to be enjoyed by all.

—by Richard C. Youkley. reprinted from The Lee Clarion

President Conn speaks with “Santa,” the man behind the blue curtain in Conn Center during the “Ask the President” chapel.
Over 200 Receive Degrees at Winter Commencement

A total of 209 students received diplomas at Lee University’s winter commencement, held on the weekend of December 16-17 in the Conn Center. Of the 209, there were 182 bachelor’s degrees, 26 master’s degrees, and one educational specialist degree awarded. The two-day event included a Friday night commissioning service, followed by graduation ceremonies the next morning.

Representing the graduates speaking about, “The Lee University Experience” were Jamie Achten, Emily Browning, Kyle Gazak, Stephen Van Goyp, Kayla Keyt, and Emmanuel Okeanye. Special music was provided by vocalist Daniel McKee, while Kayla Carlisle and Lindsey Taylor offered the invocation and benediction, respectively. Campus Pastor Jimmy Harper presented Bibles to all graduates.

Delivering the commencement address on Saturday morning was the Hon. John W. McClarty, an attorney and judge who currently serves on the Tennessee Court of Appeals as the first African American to represent East Tennessee on this prestigious body. A graduate of Howard High School in Chattanooga, McClarty was admitted to the Tennessee Bar in 1976, and in 32 years of practice, he tried both civil and criminal cases in municipal, sessions, juvenile, circuit, and chancery courts. He was appointed to the Tennessee Court of Appeals by Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen in 2009 and was recommended unanimously for election to that position in 2010 by the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission (JPEC). In addition to his legal career, Judge McClarty holds a license in the African Methodist Episcopal Church and is former pastor of the Joseph Chapel A.M.E. Church in Chattanooga.

Eight Granted Faculty Tenure

Eight Lee University faculty members were granted tenure status by the Lee Board of Directors during their meeting in January:

Christie Kleinmann, Assistant Professor of Journalism
Kelly Lumpkin, Assistant Professor of Athletic Training
Brad Moffett, Assistant Professor of Music
Austin Patty, Assistant Professor of Music
Shane Griffith, Assistant Professor of Business
Guy DeLoach, Associate Professor of Computer Information Systems
Loi West, Assistant Professor of Biology
Lisa Long, Assistant Professor of Christian Formation

Alpha Delta Tau Is Newest Greek Club

Established in summer 2011, Alpha Delta Tau (Alpha for short) is Lee University’s newest female Greek social service club. Alpha president and chaplain Elly Bloodworth said that the group was established after she and a few acquaintances discovered that they had all been praying separately over the same vision.

“A woman in church began to pray over me and stated that God told her that I was going to be in a sorority; at the time, I wanted to tell her, ‘Lady, that is not God speaking,’” Bloodworth said. “As I began to communicate with the others, I realized that this was no longer a dream, but a vision coming to fruition.”

Alpha consists of nine charter members, and inductions were held in mid-October.

“We want to help enrich women’s lives through building a community and foundation of acceptance of one another as women,” Bloodworth said. “We plan to create and establish a sisterhood through our motto of ‘Love, Strength, and Honor.’”

Alpha plans to partner with several local organizations, including the Ark of Cleveland, Inc., Salvation Army, and missing children organizations.

–Candice McNamara

Members of Alpha Delta Tau assist in distributing complimentary Coke products to students following an announcement that Coke has renewed their contract with Lee.
Communication Meets Education in New Major

Starting in fall 2012, Lee students will have the option of majoring in a new communication education program, intertwining a communication and education degree. Students wishing to graduate with a degree in communication education are required to complete 43 hours of communication courses, 27 hours of education courses, as well as one full semester of student teaching. This new degree does not require an internship as opposed to a regular communication degree.

The new major will provide a teaching license for grades 7-12 in areas such as public speaking, film, journalism, and newspaper writing. However, graduates can use the degree in the business world as well as in the classroom.

Rebekah Steigler, a junior education major, is considering switching to the communication education program, saying that the dual nature of the program greatly appeals to her. "This major allows students to still learn techniques in communication in case they decide to enter the business world," Steigler said. "I am thinking about switching to the major so that I can learn more public speaking skills."

Megan Moe, associate professor of communications, will advise students who participate in the new program. Moe said that she believes employers tend to favor interviewees with degrees in education, because it proves they had a vigorous work ethic simply to get through their major.

Communication graduate Elle Greely is currently seeking a master’s program that incorporates communication and education elements. "I really wish Lee had, had this major when I was there," Greely said. "I’m very interested in teaching and think this major, at the graduate level, is just what I’m looking for."

Communication teaching licensures are fairly new to Tennessee public schools, which in years past have simply asked English teachers to fill in for open communication classes. "We don’t have any licensed Bradley County communication education teachers," Moe said. Moe encourages any students interested in pursuing the degree to try out a few education classes to get a feel for teaching before they decide to take it on as a major.

Sister of Lee Student Part of Navy SEAL Rescue

Lee University junior Stephen Buchanan received welcome news on January 24 when he was told his sister Jessica had been successfully rescued from Somalia. "I got a call from my dad, and he said the president had called and said the rescue had been successful," Stephen Buchanan said. The call came at 10:30 p.m.

Jessica Buchanan was rescued from Somali kidnappers by a U.S. Navy SEAL team early January 25 (Somalia time), according to an Associated Press article. "I got a call from my dad, and he said the president had called and said the rescue had been successful," Stephen Buchanan’s father was also able to speak with Jessica who said she sounded strong considering everything that happened. "She’s just really looking forward to getting back with us,” Stephen Buchanan said.

He said the family was happy to know that Jessica was no longer in captivity.

Jessica Buchanan had been working with a de-mining group of The Danish Refugee Council when she was kidnapped. According to AP reports, she and another refugee worker were ‘kidnapped by criminals … and not by Somal i’a al-Qaida-linked militant group al-Shabab.’ She and another Danish Refugee Council aid worker, Poul Hagen Thisted, were kidnapped in October. — Joyanna Weber, Cleveland Daily Banner

Spring 2012 Enrollment Tops Record of 2011

Once again, Lee University has topped another semester record for student enrollment. According to Phil Cook, vice president for enrollment, 4,028 students were part of the spring semester student body, up from 4,018 last spring.

The spring figure is always lower than fall numbers, reflecting the number of students who graduate in December or otherwise complete coursework.

Lee Students Place in 24-Hour Film Competition

A lot can happen in twenty-four hours. We, on the Surprise, Surprise Film Team, learned this lesson in quite a unique way. Our team, consisting of Jordan Holt, Brady Eiffer, Shashank Shrestha, William Benjamin Hurst, Natalie Brouwer, Chuck Morgan, John Cotton, Erik Simpson, Edie Sargent, Alex Sturgill, and I, entered a competition known as the 24-Hour Film Race in May 2011.

In this competition, we were given the “surprise elements” of a theme, a prop, and an action at 10 p.m. on a Friday evening [which not-so-fortuitously happened to be right in the middle of finals week] and had until 10 p.m. Saturday evening to conceptually, write, shoot, edit, and upload a four-minute short film matching our “surprise elements” to the Film Racing website.

Following 24 hours of sleepless, caffeine-driven madness, we uploaded our short film “Face Card” to the competition website. Our film was premiered with eleven others, and much to our excitement, was announced as Audience Favorite and took home Best Writing.

But the journey was not over. A few weeks later, we were placed into the Top 32 out of over 350 entries worldwide, and then the Top 24. This placement meant an invitation to the Top 24 Screening in New York City in July. John, Brady, and I hopped on a bus and were off to New York for the screening. We were surprised to learn that we were the only college students present—all but one of the other films screened represented production houses and small studios.

We did not place in the Top 24, but had quite the 72-hour adventure attending our screening, including meeting a managing photo editor for National Geographic while trying to find the subway and taking mid-night photos in Times Square. We returned to Cleveland that Sunday night with no new awards, but with plenty of stories to tell. —Matt Smith is a graduate assistant in theology at Lee University.
When Lee University relocated back to Cleveland, Tennessee, in 1947, the college honored significant individuals who had served since the school’s founding in 1918. The new name, Lee College, which was changed from Bible Training School, recognized the second president, F.J. Lee. Newly occupied buildings on the former Bob Jones College campus now acknowledged past presidents, including J.B. Ellis, J.H. Walker, Zeno Tharp, and E.L. Simmons. Among the renamed buildings was Nora Chambers Hall, which highlighted the distinctive contributions of the first teacher in Lee University's history. Illinois native Nora Chambers and her husband, Fred, joined the Church of God at the invitation of church leader R.G. Spurling, who licensed Nora as an evangelist in 1910. At that time, they were attending Holmes School of the Bible in Altamont, South Carolina, where Nora was also on the faculty.

The next summer the couple began ministering in the mountains of western North Carolina and northern Georgia, where they served for two years. Their ministry team had no regular source of income, sometimes walked as many as 25 miles to their next appointment, and faced violent opposition. Accused of trying to destroy the existing churches, one newspaper advised them to “tarred and feathered and driven out of the state.” Opponents pelted their houses with rocks, burned their places of worship, and on one occasion beat Fred to unconsciousness. Despite these obstacles, Nora later remembered, “We were all so happy. In persecution, we are to ‘rejoice and be exceeding glad.’ This is why God was dearer to me than at any other time in my life. He was so precious to us and never left us alone.”

After relocating to Cleveland, Tennessee, Nora became a central part of the expanding ministries of the Church of God denomination. Church historian and former Lee University president, the late Charles W. Conn, described her as “a woman of rare intelligence, ability, and, for that early day, education.” He added, “Mrs. Chambers was an altruistic and tireless woman, seeking to help and encourage others at all times.” During her years in Cleveland, she served as matron of the orphanage, and filled numerous roles at the Church of God Publishing House. She was a proof reader, edited the children’s page in the youth magazine, Lighted Pathway, wrote Sunday school curriculum, contributed to the Evangel magazine, and served as clerk of the annual Church of God General Assembly meetings. Yet, she remains best known for the six years she served as Lee University’s first teacher.

When the General Assembly authorized a school in November 1917, General Overseer A.J. Tomlinson informed Nora, “Sister Chambers, you have been selected to teach the Bible Training School, and we want you to begin January 1 (1918).” She later admitted, “I insisted that a man should be chosen for that position, but finally consented when all my suggestions met opposition.” Nora Chambers became the first to understand the spiritual responsibility of teaching at Lee. She reflected, “I felt such a load settle over me the first morning we opened the school. I didn’t think I could carry it, but as the students prepared their lessons, I prayed. Soon I felt the presence of an unseen guest. He assured me that He would be with us and help us, and He did.”

Her first class was five men and seven women from four states, but only six completed the term.

Dr. David G. Roebuck is director of the Dixon Research Center and assistant professor of the history of Christianity at Lee University.
Alumni Giving in 2011 Tops $1.3 Million

Thank you to Lee alumni and friends who so generously supported the University in 2011. The year ending December 31, 2011, was a period of extraordinary alumni support for Lee University. Alumni faithfully gave to building projects, athletic teams, missions trips, student travel, service projects, and music programs to name a few. In almost every endeavor of Lee University, alumni gave their financial support. The total alumni giving to the university in 2011 was $1,361,268. This represents a significant rise in overall alumni support with a particular focus on the new chapel. Because of generous gifts from alumni and friends, alumni also showed a renewed sense of momentum in endowment giving. Recognizing that many students struggle to afford a Lee education, alumni made giving second only to building projects. In 2011, Lee received the single largest scholarship gift in the school's history, pushing the endowment to above $10 million for the first time.

The Alumni Fund continued to deliver reliable and unrestricted gifts to the university. For 25 years, the fund has been an important source of annual support wherever it is most needed. This year giving rose more than 8 percent to $304,818, and 189 new donors said “I’m in” to supporting their alma mater.

As we begin 2012, alumni support has never been stronger and the future of Lee University has never been brighter. But, each year is a renewed opportunity for Lee to strengthen existing support and to attract new and young donors who understand that the bright future of Lee University cannot be separated from the generosity of the people who believe in it. Now, more than ever, Lee needs the partnerships of its faithful alumni donors, and the support of new alumni donors who are ready to help Lee press on toward that bright future. Let 2012 be the year you say, “I’m in.”

STUM NAMED DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI FUND

Merica Patton Stum ’97 was recently introduced as the director of the Annual Alumni Fund. Since returning to Lee in 2004, Merica has worked as director of community relations serving as the primary point of contact between the university and important corporate, public, and community leadership. “Over the past seven years, Merica has been the key to our healthy town-and-gown relationships,” explained Jerome Hammond, vice president for University Relations.

“We have enjoyed unprecedented cooperation between Lee and the surrounding community, thanks in large part to Merica’s work.”

But when the Alumni Fund position became available, Merica made the decision to pursue a long-awaited desire to do fund-raising for Lee. “Almost since I arrived at Lee in 2004, I wanted to be in fund-raising,” she said. “For one reason or another, the timing wasn’t right.” Finally, at the end of 2011, everything came together. “It was a little scary to get a chance at the job I really wanted. Ultimately, the opportunity to serve Lee in a new and very measurable way outweighed the risks.”

Asked about her motivations for leaving a successful position in community relations for the unique challenges of directing a fund-raising campaign, Merica explained: “Because I think of Lee as an ‘I’m-in’ institution, not a ‘me-too’ institution. A ‘me-too’ institution is one that is finished becoming something. It has so many resources and so much history that it is what it is. People go there, work there, or give there to say ‘me too.’ ‘But, an ‘I’m-in’ institution needs people who believe in the vision of what it is becoming. The tremendous success at Lee over the last 25 years has gotten us to a place where more people can understand the vision, but the University still needs strong leadership, talented professionals, and faithful donors. Lee University needs people to say, ‘I’m in.’ As the alumni fund director, I can help strengthen the support for what Lee is becoming.’”

“By now,” she adds, “you can’t be surprised to learn that I have a slogan for the Alumni Fund: ‘I’m in.’ I want to remind us why we give to the alumni fund. We are building Lee and shaping Lee together. So, with that, I have just one question to ask: Who’s in?”

DONOR LIST

2011 DONOR LIST

$5,000 – $9,999

Judy Bubolz
Donald and Jean Bowdle
Herbert and Harriet Cannon
James and Patricia Carroll
Paul and Darla Conn
Randal Dillingham
William Iacso
Bobby and Carol Johnson, Jr.
Guy and Lena Marley
Wen and Patricia McClung
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M. Darrell and Mena Rice
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Gary and Jodi Riggs
Donald and Donell Tallackson
Earl Tapley
Paul and Camellia Walker
Claudie and Camilla Wem
Harold and Beth Woodard

$1,000 – $4,999

Ty Ackerman
Delton and Myra Allord
Gloria Allen
Virgil and Patricia Allen
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David and Valerie Black
Stephen and Polly Black
David and Janet Blair
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Russell and Grace Delator
Muti and Carolyn Dinken
E. Michael and Wynell Ellis
Danny Fanter
J.R. and Autumn Fitch
Karen Fonto
Rick and Gayle Gellerah
William T and Nakia George
Joseph and Julie Grove, III

$25,000 +

Donald and Winnie Aultman
Ray and Joan Conn
Robert and Kim Daughtery, II
Bill and Janie Higbybotham
Caroly Medlin
Bradley and Melissa Moffett
R. Lamar and Vickie Vest

$10,000 – $24,999

Stanley Frazer
Levy and Bonnie Hathcock
J. Andy Hughes
Randy and Cyndi Jones
Michael and Tonya Mazziotti

$5,000 – $9,999

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AnnuA l Alumni Fund liSt AnnuA l Alumni Fund liSt
In what has become an annual tradition, alumni are invited to enjoy a Pasta Pig Out at the Bucce DiBella restaurant in Franklin, Tennessee. This tradition emerged as a way for Lee alumni half-marathon runners to get together the night before the big race. Newcomers and non-runners are invited to attend on Friday, April 27 at 6:00 p.m. CST for this prerace, “carb-loading” pasta dinner. Space is limited, so please RSVP as soon as possible by email to Alumni Relations Director Mitzi Mew (mmew@leeuniversity.edu) or by calling (423) 614-8316. The address of the restaurant is 1722 Galleria Boulevard, Franklin, Tennessee 37067 (Cool Galleria).
Women’s Soccer Team Earns Unprecedented “4-Peat”

Coaching Matt Yelton and his Lee women’s soccer team rewrote NAIA history when the Lady Flames claimed an unprecedented fourth consecutive women’s national championship on Saturday, December 3, 2011, by defeating Concordia University (Ore.), 3-0. Ironically, Lee’s championship run began in 2008 with a victory over a Concordia team.

During the past four years, Lee’s women have established a remarkable record of 90-7-3. Included among the many accomplishments are four national crowns, 15 straight national tournament victories, 10 conference tournament titles, nine conference regular season championships, and eight straight trips to the NAIA National Championships. Since joining the Southern States Athletic Conference, Lee is 66-0-1.

Little wonder why Yelton was named NSCAA National Coach of the Year, the third time during the past four years, at the annual National Soccer Coaches Association of America Awards Banquet on January 15. Forward Jamie Achten was selected as the NAIA National Player of the Year. Achten’s No. 2 jersey was retired during a ceremony on February 2.

Achten was joined on the first-team All-American squad by teammates Leah Fortune and Amy Cochran. Laura Thacker and Ode Fulutidulu were named to the all-tournament squad. Lee wraps up the championship season with a 23-2 record.

Coach Tommy Brown has notched 300 wins in his coaching career.

Brown Gets 300th Win

Tommy Brown is in his fourteenth year of coaching men’s college basketball. His clubs have averaged over 20 wins per season and going into the 2011-2012 campaign, he’s taken eight straight teams into NAIA national competition.

On January 7, Brown reached a coaching milestone when his Lee Flames presented him with his 300th coaching win, a 89-68 triumph over Belhaven University. The Flames have remained a Top 20 team in the NAIA rankings all season, but Brown would trade the rankings and his 300 wins if his 2011-2012 squad could have found a way to score a late bucket and turn the tables on No. 16 Shorter University. Achten’s No. 2 jersey was retired during a ceremony on February 18.

Lee sensation Jamie Achten’s #2 jersey was retired in a Feb. 2 ceremony.

The 2011 championship banner was hung and rings were presented during a ceremony at Lee on Feb. 18.

3rd-year Lee sensation Jamie Achten of the Lady Flames.

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**Volleyball Once Again Reaches NAIA Semifinal**

The year 2011 produced another outstanding season for the Lady Flames volleyball team, including the team’s third consecutive appearance in the Fab Four at the NAIA National Volleyball Championships. The Lady Flames lost a heartbreaking, five-set match to eventual champion, University of Texas at Brownsville.

The Lee ladies, who were ranked as high as No.2 in the NAIA, graduated a class of seven seniors who compiled a four-year record of 150-20, with four Southern States Athletic Conference (SSAC) tournament championships. They had four players named Honorable Mention NAIA All-Americans. Seniors Arlene Ferreira and Chritta Hutchison were both honored, joined by sophomore Irene Ojukwu and freshman Marija Zelenovic. All four players were named All-SSAC, with Zelenovic also named SSAC Freshman of the Year.

Senior Sarah Smith was named SSAC Libero of the Year and was joined on the SSAC All-East Division team by Ferreira, Hutchison, Ojukwu, Zelenovic, Gretchen Higdon, and Kelsey Leffew. Lauren Williams joined Zelenovic on the SSAC All-Freshmen team.

The Lady Flames continued their tradition of outstanding performance in the classroom, as well, with five players named NAIA Scholar-Athletes. Hutchison, Smith, Higdon, Courtney Culbreath, and Stephanie Todd all received the national academic honor, and were joined by Leffew and Becky Bourne on the SSAC All-Academic list.

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**Rowe Becomes Winningest Women’s Coach**

Coach Marty Rowe (on sideline, left in blue shirt) directs his Lady Flames to big win over Shorter University.

Coach Marty Rowe and his Lee women’s basketball team are in the midst of their best-ever start (21-1) and dominating play in the Southern States Athletic Conference [6-0]. These marks come as no surprise, since accepting the Lee post eight years ago, his women have averaged over 25 victories per season.

Rowe recently broke the record held by legendary Coach Jack Souther. Before giving up his women’s basketball duties and turning to a successful career directing the Lee golf team, Souther recorded a long-standing mark of 218 wins against 132 defeats, including an NCCAA National Championship. Rowe registered his 219th coaching win at Lee on February 4 against Emmanuel College. He has suffered only 46 losses. Rowe and Souther were honored during halftime at the Lee-Brewton-Parker men’s game on February 7. Rowe is looking to take his ninth straight Lee team to the NAIA National Tournament. The tourney has been moved from its longtime home in Jackson, Tenn. to Frankfort, Ky. and will be played during the week of March 14-20.

While Rowe has directed Lee to well over 200 wins during his nine-year tenure, he has been blessed with solid talent on the hardwood and in the classroom. “Recruiting is a valuable part of winning at any level of college basketball,” he noted. “We focus our recruiting on bringing in quality student-athletes and individuals into the program who are hard workers in all facets of life.”

**Golfers Take Skills Into Fall Season**

Coach John Maupin describes his women’s fall golf season as “Great. I could not have been more proud of the things we accomplished. We began the fall with high expectations and a lot of momentum, based on how we ended the previous year. The top 10 finish in our first trip to the national tournament gave us a lot of confidence heading into the fall. The girls have put a lot of work into raising this program up to compete at a national level, and I think it is evident that hard work paid off.”

The Lady Flames were second in the Bill Sergent Invitational, and then grabbed championships in the Blue Grass Fall Classic, NAIA Preview, and CSC Shootout. The Lady Flames have now won five of our last seven regular season events. Said Maupin: “The great thing about this team is that there are no dominating personalities. They have great chemistry, make an effort to be a part of each other’s lives, and are respectful of each other. I have been so impressed with Chelsea (Rakestraw), Kristin (Bour), and Sloane’s (Skinner) ability to adapt to each new year. They have essentially been here since the start of the program, so how they have chosen to respond to new teammates and growth has been a big part of our success.”

Coach Maupin has enjoyed his share of success since taking over the Lee men’s golf program, but he called the fall of 2011 “one of our most consistent falls since I’ve been the coach here. I was really pleased with the results we had, especially considering the challenging schedule that we played. We competed against seven teams that are ranked in the top 10 in the country and we competed against 15 teams that are ranked in the top 25. We also had wins against 14 ranked teams. I felt like our guys stepped up to the challenge of our schedule and proved they can play with any team in the country.”

Sophomore Matt Emery stepped up big time during the fall season. In ten tournament rounds, five of his rounds were under par, and he spent the majority of the season ranked as the top NAIA player in the country. He finished in the top seven in three of the Flames’ tournaments, highlighted by his win at the Chick-Fil-A® Collegiate Invitation-where he shot 70-66. Two seniors, Jeremy Lawson and Caleb Roberson had solid falls as well, both contributing several under par rounds at big tournaments.
Flames Finish First Season Under Coach Paul Furey

Following the nine-year stay of Coach Henry Moyo, Paul Furey stepped in to lead the Lee men’s soccer program, taking the Flames from four games under .500 in 2010, to 11-8 overall, earning a berth in the Southern States Athletic Conference (SSAC) tournament in his first season. 

Competing in the powerful SSAC, which had five teams ranked in the top 20, including five in the top 10, the Flames finished conference play with a 6-6 record. The Lee men lost a heartbreaking, overtime match to then-No.12 Southern Poly, 2-1, in the first round of the conference tournament. At one point in regular season play, the Flames won six consecutive matches, including a 3-0 win over then-No.12 Bryan College. Junior Sias Reyneke headlined the postseason awards for the Flames, being named Second Team All-SSAC, a NAIA Scholar-Athlete, and to the Musco Lighting Champions of Character Team. Senior captain Mohamed Aden and junior captain Luke Cuthbert on the SSAC All-Academic list. Lighting Champions of Character Team. Senior captain Mohamed Aden and 

High Hopes for 2012 Softball Lady Flames

Coach Emily Russell and the Lee University Lady Flames softball team look to have a bright future, as they enter the 2012 season with a new crop of talented recruits joining a number of returning players.

All five Lady Flames seniors have made major contributions over the past several seasons, both in the starting lineup and off the bench. Catcher Nicole Rodriguez and pitchers Brittany Balough and Causten Boshears, will look to lock down the battery once again, with Kelsey Barnes (utility) and Talitha Farrow (outfield) also primed for solid senior campaigns.

A mixture of returning players and exciting new recruits make up a junior class of seven players. Kelli Crawford, Katie Deems, Savanna Bell, Charlie Wooden, and Jennifer Cena are joined by newcomers Jennifer Ringle and Deziare Parsons.

Baseball Chases World Series Title

For five consecutive years, head coach Mark Brew and the Lee University Flames have reached the NAIA World Series, with two, second-place and two, third-place finishes in the past four years. The Flames take high expectations in 2012, with the No.1 goal of earning their first NAIA World Series title.

The Flames have brought in another crop of outstanding athletes in 2012, joining the returning core of experienced upper classmen. Kris Hall is the most notable returner for Lee, after being named to the SSAC All-Division team in 2011. Hall, who will be transitioning from the bullpen to the starting rotation, has caught the attention of professional scouts, as he was named No.80 in the top 100 college draft eligible players by Baseball America.

Other returning starters include first baseman Roberto Reyes, and fifth-year baseman Preston Scoggins and second baseman Max Harvell. After a year off due to injury, catcher Taylor Comford will return in 2012, after playing in 54 games two seasons ago. All four players will look to mesh with the incoming players to fill the infield and catching positions.

The Flames will be working to earn time in the starting lineup and off the bench. Catcher Taylor Comford will return in 2012, after playing in 54 games two seasons ago. All four players will look to mesh with the incoming players to fill the infield and catching positions.

The Flames will be looking to fill all three outfield positions in 2012, after graduating Seth Walker and Michael Brown, and losing Jonathan Clark to the MLB Draft. Chris Grayson, who spent time in the outfield and at designated hitter, also signed after being drafted by the Texas Rangers. The Lee pitching staff will also see turnover from 2011, as several recruits will join seven returning pitchers to compete for the remaining positions in the starting rotation and bullpen.

Boasting a No.3 preseason ranking, the Flames began play with a nine-game homestand, starting Feb. 3. Conference tournament will be played April 26–May 1 in Columbus, Ga. Lee will be looking to qualify for the National Tournament Opening Round for an opportunity to return to the NAIA World Series, May 25–June 1 in Lewiston, Idaho.

The Lady Flames hope to be celebrating a return to the NAIA national tournament.

Tennis Teams Primed for 2012 Run

The 2012 Lady Flames and Flames tennis tennis team enter the season with high expectations, once again, as both teams return several key players from the 2011 squads.

The Lady Flames are led by their only returning senior, Kelsey Gray. Gray and junior Tarah Garner both boast all-conference honors from the 2011 season. Senior Stephanie Hewgley and Renan Molineiro, both NAIA Scholar-Athletes last season. Hewgley and Renan Molineiro represent the junior class with transfer Patrick Kim from South Korea.

Ten returning starters include first baseman Roberto Reyes, and fifth-year baseman Preston Scoggins and second baseman Max Harvell. After a year off due to injury, catcher Taylor Comford will return in 2012, after playing in 54 games two seasons ago. All four players will look to mesh with the incoming players to fill the infield and catching positions.

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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 or mail your entry to . . .

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1950s - 1970s

1950s

Vivian Jackson Smith

'55 died December 17, 2011. While attending Lee, she met Lou Smith, and they married May 27, 1955. They later returned to Lee where Lou resumed his studies and became the assistant dean of men. Vivian retired from Sun Trust Bank in 1996 and was an accomplished pianist and choir director. She is survived by her husband, Louis Smith, and their five children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

1960s

Dawn Wooderson

'68 lives in Aurora, Colo., where she recently published Vol. 2 of the popular Songs of Faith sing-along CD and large-print hymnbook series. Songs of Faith is designed for older adults in churches, homes, hospitals, prisons, long-term care, and Alzheimer’s care. Dawn teaches professional development courses for activity directors, church leadership, and medical staff, and presents music and mental fitness classes for senior adults. www.MusicByWoodSong.com

Maria Sharp Mayo

'70 retired in 2010 from the Social Security Administration with 36 years of service. She married R. Ken Mayo Sr. in 2010, and together they have five children and twelve grandchildren. They live in Tallahassee and attend Evanghel Assembly. Maria says, “I enjoyed meeting new friends and attending classes at Lee. I remember Dr. Bilbo’s Old Testament Survey class, prayer meetings in Nora Chambers Hall, Pop Rushing’s hot honey buns with soft vanilla ice cream, the chapel services, and great ministers in the local churches. Life at Lee gave me a chance to see diversity in people and ideas.”

1970s

Dr. Lyn Murphy

'73 was recently honored with the Excellence in Teaching Award at Dalton (Ga.) State College, where he is a professor. He and his wife, Betty, live in Rocky Face, Ga., and have two grown daughters.

1980s

Tammy Boyd Simmons

'81 began working at Ft. Benning, Ga. with the 199th Infantry Brigade as an instructional systems specialist in August 2011. Tammy’s job is to analyze, evaluate, and develop curriculum and training methods for the Officer Candidate School and Infantry Basic Office Course. Tammy says, “I am so excited to finally be able to directly use my Lee degree in psychology in my job. Then there’s my instruction and curriculum master’s degree, and 26 years of actually teaching.” In January 2012, Tammy was honored with the Commander’s Award of Excellence. Part of the narrative read, “Mrs. Tammy Simmons has devoted tremendous time and effort to create a tailored Critical and Creative Thinking class aimed at the junior leadership level. Her drive and energy have been extremely valuable in this effort, and this program has already been acknowledged by the Commanding General of the Maneuver Center of Excellence as probably one of the very most relevant courses for our Junior Leaders in existence today.” Tammy is married to Terry, and she has four sons.

Karen Lee-Nix

'83 is president of All American Trivia Games, LLC, which produces a presidential trivia game, Hail to the Chief, now available on the iTunes store. The boxed game is available on the website www.allamericantrivia.com.

Cary Studard

'84 is executive pastor at The Church At Covington in Covington, Ga.

Maloy Strickland

'86 lives in Shreveport, La., with his wife, Eunice, and their child. Maloy serves as minister of music/worship and assistant pastor at Christ Pointe Church of God. Maloy says, “My ‘tent-making’ job is teaching elementary music at a local public school.”

1990s

Meredith Hepburn Lovegrove

'92 lives in Cocoa, Fla., with her husband Phillip and their children. Meredith says, “I really enjoyed being a member of the Evangelistic Singers! I will never forget when we toured Florida . . . what an awesome privilege and experience, to enjoy college! That is why I am so excited our son wants to attend Lee University! Thank you, Lee University, a.k.a., Lee College!”

Karen Lee-Nix

'93 was a member of the Lee University Cheer Team as a freshman and was a member of the Women’s Track Team as a sophomore. Karen says, “I am so excited to return to Lee! Thank you, Lee University, for the memories and education.”

Karen Lee-Nix

'93 is a Florida native who moved to Tennessee with her family and attended Lee University from 1991-1993. Karen says, “I always wanted to return to Lee, and now here I am!”

1990s

1990s

Rocky Face, Ga.

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Baxter Cotton ’87 is serving as project manager of the Literacy Design Collaborative for Forsyth County Schools. The LDC is a literacy effort that is grant funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Forsyth County is one of ten school districts in the nation to receive this grant funding.

Taz Randles ’88 is currently stationed in Afghanistan where he serves as a chaplain. Randles (middle) is shown here in Dwyer, in the Paktika province of Afghanistan.

Steve Johnson ’91 recently completed research on one of Cambodia’s greatest kings, Jayavarman VII. To complete the research, he spent two summers in remote areas of Cambodia, including time with Monk Sav Sarong, (pictured) who lives among tigers in Wat Tamov. Steve’s article appeared in the quarterly bulletin of the Angkor National Museum and he has been appointed one of its coeditors. He also maintains the Facebook page, The Khmer Art Forum. Steve’s occupation is a history teacher at Riverside High School and Limestone College in Greenville, S.C.

Robin ’91 and Christy Lever ’91 have traveled across Central America preaching and teaching to hundreds and are now in full-time ministry with Free Life Chapel in Lakeland, Fla.

Jody Smith ’92 and his daughter, Kayla, took their first international missions trip to Myanmar where they visited a network of orphanages in the Yangon area, including the Love Orphanage and the overseer of the Widow’s Home, Elijah. Kayla is a high school senior. Jody is regional vice president for a chemical distribution company in Henderson, Ky.

Reba Terry ’94 and her daughter, Heather Terry Carlson ’01 toured the Cathedral of Learning on the University of Pittsburgh campus and took Torch with them. Reba is executive director of The Caring Place, where Heather recently resigned as a counselor to become a homemaker.

When plans for the Lee University chapel were first unveiled, talk began to surface of how it would be a perfect wedding venue. As construction progressed and a clear picture of the beauty and setting of the edifice emerged, talk intensified. Prospective brides and grooms, alumni and non-alumni, are scrambling to reserve dates for that special day.

The reasons the new chapel is already the wedding location of choice among alumni and non-alumni alike, are numerous. Candles are not allowed and floral decorations are limited, but the chapel is so intimately decorated, few additional amenities are needed. The seating capacity of 200 to 250 is perfect. In addition, the chapel is a wedding photographer’s dream, as innumerable sites, both inside and outside, provide breathtaking settings. The chapel has an indoor gathering area and bride’s room downstairs and a courtyard capable of accommodating a large reception. In addition, other reception sites, such as the historic Centenary Room, are just a few steps away.

 Appropriately, the first two weddings held in the new chapel the weekend of December 17 and 18 were full of Lee alumni. The first wedding was held Saturday, December 17, where Bethany Underwood and Ryan Casteel said their vows. Bethany is a senior at Lee. Her parents are Vickie Stone Underwood Vest ’78 and the late Christopher Underwood ’71. Performing the ceremony was her stepfather, former Lee University president Dr. Lamar Vest.

Less than 24 hours later, Matthew Fisher ’08 and Jade Taylor ’10 tied the knot. Matthew was hired last fall to teach in the Communications Department at Lee, where his father, Dr. Robert Fisher ’80 has been a psychology professor since 1983. His mother, Kim Lackey Fisher ’83 is a local elementary school principal. The bride and groom’s parties on both sides of the first weekend of weddings were also filled with Lee alumni.

Although the new chapel was designed to serve more purposes than a wedding venue, its beauty and serenity make it the ideal setting for couples to share the most important day of their lives.
Vanessa Lynch ’97 was recently appointed executive director of the Wetumpka, Alabama area Chamber of Commerce. After graduation, she worked three years in public relations and marketing, and spent a decade as a songwriter in Nashville. Lynch is an avid runner and kayaker, and recently competed in the Attack on Swayback. Vanessa says of her new job, “I think Wetumpka could easily capitalize on Swayback and the Coosa River,” she said. “The Coosa River is a gold mine… I could see Wetumpka being one of the top places to live in the Southeast for recreation lovers.”

Nick ’98 and Tammy Lloyd Haines ’98 have been in music ministry in the Church of God for thirteen years, serving in churches in Delaware, Tennessee, Texas, Maryland, and South Carolina. They recently returned to Cleveland, where Nick is involved in the master’s program. They attend church at Mt. Olive Ministries where Nick is involved in the music ministry. They have two children.

2000s

Rachel Jones Pickle ’01, and her husband, Ken, live in Rome, Ga. and have two children, including their newest addition, Alden, born on January 23, 2011. Rachel says, “Lee provided a great education in addition to an environment that challenged my faith to grow.”

Chase Holcomb ’05 was diagnosed with a hemorrhaging vein malformation following a routine MRI last year. Neurosurgeons were concerned that the vein could rupture or continue to bleed and cause brain damage or even speech impairments. Chase underwent brain surgery at J.M. (Joe) C. Pennington Medical Center, in Huntsville, Ala. on December 27, 2011. Forty-five Lee University alumni from Theta Delta Kappa and Epsilon Lambda Phi formed an online prayer chain and prayed for 24 hours throughout the day of his surgery. Chase was released from the hospital after only three nights and no physical therapy is needed nor are there any long-term effects from the surgery. After merely two weeks post-op, Chase has returned to his pastoral position at Mount Holly Church, in Carrollton, Ga. Chase is married to Sarah Holcomb, ’05 and they have a daughter, Eva.

Alisha Ballenger ’07 works with the Knoxville Inner City Kids Outreach (www.kicko.org) helping with Sidewalk Sunday School and the Junior Staff youth group. She began with the ministry, which impacts youth at risk, while she was a student at Lee. Recently, she was awarded $5,000 from the Dave Ramsey Giving Challenge. Alisha’s story was one of three winners chosen from thousands of entries. On December 15, 2011, a team came to Knoxville to surprise Alisha and KICKO with the check. The presentation was made live on “The Dave Ramsey Show.” Alisha entered the contest on behalf of KICKO's Junior Staff, who have grown up in their own communities in a variety of ways with KICKO.
Harmoni Jacobsen ’07 married Vytas Jesunas on July 29, 2011. Their ceremony took place at the historic Mabel Tainter Theatre in Menomonie, Wis. The couple resides in Prentice, Wis. where Harmoni is the director of choirs and general music for the Prentice School District. She also directs the school musical, forensics, and glee club. Harmoni says, “I can’t wait to show Lee University to my husband this spring break and see all the new buildings!”

Rachael Webb ’07 and Derrick Milligan ’09 are both teaching English as a second language (ESL) in Yongin-Suji, a small suburb outside of Seoul, South Korea. Rachael says, “We didn’t know each other at Lee, but I found Derrick by looking through the ‘people you may know’ list on my Facebook page when I was bored. We had a bunch of friends in common and his name was written in Hanguel (Korean), so I clicked on his picture and sent him a message. We’ve become real friends now (not just on Facebook), and we often enjoy talking about good times at Lee. Not only did we go to the same college and move to the same town across the globe, we have also discovered that we have the same Lee sweatshirt! So, we just had to pose for a picture with Torch in our matching sweatshirts.

Rachel McDougall ’08, Kimber Humphries ’08, and Heather Poe ’10 visited the DMZ on the border of North and South Korea and also took a trip to Hong Kong where they posed with Torch at the foot of the largest Buddha statue in the world. The trio all taught at the same school in Gwangju, South Korea.

Amber M. Moore ’09 is a second-year law student at West Virginia University College of Law. In January 2012, she was elected editor-in-chief of Volume 115 (2012-2013) of the West Virginia Law Review.

2010s

Jamie Gann Jr. ’10 is an elementary music teacher with the Blount County, Tenn. School System. He is also music director at St. John United Methodist Church and a performer with the Foothills Community Players.

Joshua Nelson ’10 recently took a position as music director at Saint Joseph’s Catholic High School in South Bend, Ind. Joshua says, “I am blessed and privileged, not only to teach the students history, theory, instrumental and vocal music, but also I have the opportunity to lead the entire student body and faculty in worship each month and prayers at the start of each class.”

For 25 years Lee alumni have generously said “I’m in” to the Annual Alumni Fund. In so doing, they’ve helped spark a renaissance and build a university. We call that a good start. Now we need your help to fuel what dreams may lie ahead.
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