COMMENCEMENT 2007
Another record class graduates in a ceremony to remember

SPANNING THE GLOBE
Seventeen international professors bring unique perspectives to the classroom
SUMMER 2007
Volume 49 • Number 2

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 423-614-8316.

TORCH MAGAZINE
Cameron Fisher, editor
George Starr, sports editor
Bob Fisher, graphic designer

WRITERS
Brian Conn, Paul Conn, Katie Dietz, Emily Essner, Cameron Fisher, Whitney Hemphill, Jordan Lee, Matthew Propes, George Starr, Lorri Wickam

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Brian Conn, Cameron Fisher, John Russell, George Starr, Mike Wesson, Carrie Workman

Copyright © 2007
USPS# 016272
Periodicals postage paid at Cleveland, Tenn.

Please send address corrections, letters to the editor and other inquiries to:
Lee University Alumni Office,
1120 North Ocoee Street
Cleveland, TN 37320-3450.
www.leeuniversity.edu
torch@leeuniversity.edu

CONTENTS

4 Second Time Across the Stage
Two Lee graduates share about crossing the commencement stage twice, one 20 minutes apart and another 20 years apart.

8 An ‘Idol’ Alumnus
Phil Stacey ’02 reaches a unique place in modern American stardom.

10 A Global Faculty
Read about the 17 Lee University faculty with non-American birth certificates.

16 Lee’s ‘University’ Anniversary
A look back at a progressive and campus-changing first decade of Lee ‘University.’
OPENING THOUGHTS
From President Paul Conn

Some Random Thoughts . . .

A GRADUATION BLACKOUT—None of us will forget the Blackout of ’07. The day had begun for some of us at 4:00 a.m. on the rain-soaked soccer field, sitting on a dark stage looking out at 5000 very wet folding chairs. No choice but to go indoors, so 3000 of us crammed into the Paul Dana Walker Arena. Things were going great when we lost power. No lights and sound, okay, we could wait that out, but the loss of air conditioning created a serious problem. So we improvised and, happily, a Cleveland Utilities crew, laboring out there in the neighborhood somewhere, restored power much sooner than the two hours they told us to expect. It made the post-blackout celebration even sweeter. Some student comments in emails to me the next week: “It was like a big campout; I was having fun until all those bodies starting warming up...” Another: “I was in that weird category that got the honor of shaking your hand twice!” Another: “It was just one final shared experience that we will always remember!” Amen to that.

TWO BUILDINGS: ONE FOR SCIENCE AND ONE FOR RELIGION?—We are deep into the fund-raising process for two new buildings—new homes for the School of Religion and for the Department of Natural Sciences/Math. We didn’t plan it this way, but the task of simultaneously promoting both buildings has been a terrific opportunity to restate our commitment to the integration of faith and science. In a way, it symbolizes the whole Lee University enterprise. We want our students to believe deeply in a supernatural God who transcends and cannot be fully explained by our finite reasoning. That is part of our definition of faith. At the same time, we want our students to explore the natural world with all its complexities, its wonders, and its possibilities. We see no incompatibility between the truth of God revealed in Scripture and the truth of God revealed in the natural world. A pursuit of science does not push us away from God; to the contrary, it leaves us freshly awestruck at His greatness and at the miracle that He loves us in a personal way.

WEDDINGS—My summer schedule is not totally consumed by fund-raising. I will also have time to attend three “Lee weddings,” one of my favorite things to do. In each case, both the bride and the groom are Lee students or recent graduates, and in each case, in three different states, I will watch like a proud Papa as lots of Lee students and alums witness the marriage of their friends. It is always a time of pride and joy, and also a time when I pray a quiet, fervent prayer that God’s hand will be on them all. Lee weddings remind me a lot of Lee commencements—all that emotion, that irrepressible spirit of celebration, that buoyant excitement about wonderful things which lie ahead. Forty years ago, in the summer of 1967, Darlia and I had our own Lee wedding, surrounded by our own set of Lee friends. This summer, as I watch three much younger couples exchange their vows, I am thinking: “Not much has changed, really.” I’m happy for that. The beauty of loving, permanent marriages hasn’t changed. For all Lee students everywhere who are taking that step, I wish for you a wonderful life together.

Departments

18 Campus News
28 Faculty Facts
30 Athletics
40 Torch Travels
42 Who’s Where
With springtime rain as a background, Lee’s spring 2007 commencement exercises introduced a number of “first time” experiences for graduates, faculty, and families. This year was the first since 2002 that the spring commencement ceremony has taken place at somewhere other than the university’s soccer field. This was also a year, perhaps the first like it in Lee’s history, in which a number of graduates, including myself, had the privilege of going through the graduation exercise twice.

Friday night commissioning was in the gymnasium of the Paul Dana Walker Arena. During this ceremony, three outstanding Lee seniors were awarded with student awards. Six graduates delivered addresses reflecting on their “Lee experience.” There was such diversity in this group of speakers: we heard humorous stories, nostalgic student memories, and accounts of the faithfulness of God proving to be the divine provider for His children.

After the senior reflection speeches, Alan McClung, Dean of Students, and Jimmy Harper, Campus Pastor, presented the graduating seniors with Bibles engraved with the names of the nearly 400 graduates who successfully completed their tenures at Lee. Inside the cover, Dr. Conn signed the Bibles and wrote a Scripture reference from Ephesians 3:16-19. At the closing of commissioning, Dr. Conn led us in a reading of the passage. It was the perfect summation of God’s work in our lives during our time at Lee. It also reminds me of my first pastoral ministry class, Foundations of Ministry 101, when Dr. John Lombard opened the class with prayer. It might have seemed insignificant to many, but it moved me so to realize that I had chosen to attend a university that not only allows, but publicly promotes and
endorses students to develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Everyone involved with the ceremonies hoped that the weather would clear in time for Saturday morning's commencement ceremony to be held on the soccer field, but the rain that fell Friday night left little room for hope. The graduation ceremony was again in Walker arena. The gathering was blessed with the talents of the Lee Singers, under the direction of Dr. Brad Moffett, and then led in congregational singing by Dr. Stephen Plate, Dean of the School of Music.

Dr. David James Spittal, president of Southern Wesleyan University in Central, South Carolina, was the speaker for Saturday's ceremony. He asked the graduates three core questions: “Do you know who you are?,” “Do you know who is next to you?,” and “Do you know who is the source of your strength?” He challenged the graduates to gain a proper understanding of who we were, those who were going with us in our collective futures, and Jesus Christ as our ultimate source of strength.

Upon the conclusion of Dr. Spittal’s address, Dr. Carolyn Dirksen began the task of presenting the candidates for graduation. Then began what is perhaps the ultimate goal for any and every student at Lee: the conferral of degrees from Dr. Paul Conn. Walking across the stage, hearing your name announced for all to hear, shaking hands with the president, and receiving your degree for which you worked so hard is the pinnacle of the Lee experience.

Something would prove to be different, however, about this year’s ceremony. With many candidates for undergraduate and graduate degrees yet to be rec-
ognized, the power went out. A portion of the lights went out, soon followed by all electrical power in the building. Dr. Dirksen was in the middle of announcing a graduate’s name. The only light available in the gymnasium were emergency lights, light from the doors leading outside, and a sprinkling of cell phone lights. Soon thereafter, we learned that no immediate solution was available. The effects of the lack of air conditioning in the arena began to be felt, people began to become restless, while others hearkened back to a scene from the movie "Hoosiers" and began a “slow clap.”

Dr. Conn informed us that a transformer that provides power on that entire section of Cleveland had been knocked out. Cleveland Utilities gave the “encouraging” news that the shortage would be rectified in approximately two hours. Dr. Conn provided excellent poise and leadership in this undoubtedly trying and difficult situation. A decision was made to move the announcing of the graduates and the conferral of degrees to an area just outside the arena. The rain had subsided and this would still allow the graduates to be announced and have the opportunity to shake hands with the president. This was an emotional moment for everyone involved. My main fear was that my family, who had traveled from South Carolina and my fiancé would not be able to see and hear me receive my degree. Under the circumstances, however, this was the only solution that

Dr. Conn,

What an uplifting graduation weekend! Friday night we enjoyed the sharing by students of their “Lee University experience” and Saturday was handled extremely well. However, I thought it only fitting that I, a dad, get to give you my Lee experience.

In my daughter Acacia’s senior year of high school, she began experiencing aches and pains in the ankles and knees. Eventually it was determined to be an allergic reaction to Minocycline, something she had been taking in low doses for her complexion. Research noted that 97 percent of those with a reaction get better and 3 percent continue with the reaction. We were the 3 percent.

Acacia had so looked forward to beginning her freshman year at Lee University. After much prayer we decided to let her start school with a minimum number of hours. We moved her into Sharp Hall, to “the bed by the window.” The sore joints remained and the fevers of “unknown origin” continued.

When Acacia had doctor’s appointments, Lee University was very supportive with missed classes. December came and she attended finals wrapped in a blanket to ward off chills and fevers. A lot of hours had been spent in the bed by the window.

Over the holidays the doctors diagnosed it as Lupus. A group of four drugs were prescribed and within a short period the symptoms began to leave. Less time was spent in the bed by the window.

By the time her freshman year was complete she felt great but was dependent on medication. Acacia continued to proclaim Gods plan to heal. After a year and a half of no symptoms doctors changed the diagnosis to a “Lupus-like syndrome.” This past January the last pill was taken and doctors acknowledged her blood was clean; symptom free for three years and now no medication. Praise the Lord!

And so on May 5, 2007, her mother’s birthday, Acacia Elizabeth Littrell graduated, on time, magna cum laude. We could have done the whole thing in the dark and it would have been OK; in fact it might have helped hide a few tears. That night at about 11:00 p.m., I drove back to campus and parked. I began walking around enjoying four years of flashbacks from visits, memories that each building evoked. The lights were still on the soccer field so I sat on a bench and soaked it all in.

As I turned to leave, there was Sharp Hall. It was dark but I wanted to get near to where it all began four years ago. As I approached, I noticed only one room had the lights on and the curtains open. I couldn’t believe it. On the first floor shining bright, was Acacia’s freshman room. And there it was, the bed by the window. I seldom cry, but I came unglued. As the tears flowed, God proclaimed once again His faithfulness through a blue mattress and an 18-year-old girl who felt God would heal her. The dark of the night richly embraced me as I walked back to the car. My closure was complete.

Thank you Lee University, I’ll forever cherish my Lee Experience. —Ken Littrell

Ken and Peggy Littrell with their daughter Acacia at her graduation
When I graduated with a psychology degree from Lee College in 1986, I never imagined I would be back on the same campus 21 years later as a graduate student; especially since there was no such thing as a graduate program in 1986! However, that is just what happened. Since then the campus changed physically (I can no longer “cruise” down Church Street and park illegally on the sidewalk in front of Cross Hall), and it has changed academically as well.

I was apprehensive about stepping back into the classroom at this stage in my life. I have two children in elementary school, had been in the work force for several years, and hadn’t taken a class since I had graduated with my first masters in 1988. I wondered how an “older mom” would be received by the much younger students. I also found myself sitting under the instruction of friends I attended Lee with in the ‘80’s. It turned out that although most of the students were younger (there were a few older in my classes), they accepted me as a fellow student and friend. There were eight of us that started and finished in the program together and we share a close camaraderie.

I graduated on May 5, 2007 with a Master of Science in School Counseling. I felt like giving up at times, especially when my father became ill and passed away during my first semester. However, my instructors encouraged and worked with me to help me stay on track. The Lord directed my steps at every turn.

I am currently employed in the field in which I majored: at an elementary school as a part-time school counselor. The principal is Lee alumnna Sharon Layne Harper ’85. Although, my experience was a challenge at times, it is definitely one I would do over. Anyone considering attending Lee “the second time around,” will not be disappointed.

allowed each graduate to be duly recognized. The table holding the degrees was moved outside, and Dr. Dirksen used a megaphone to announce the remaining graduates. During this process, almost miraculously, a portion of power returned. Not knowing how much power was available, we went ahead with the emergency plan.

Eventually, however, the remainder of the power returned. The decision was made to move the ceremony back inside the arena, to re-announce and recognize the graduates. This decision not only brightened the day of those previously saddened by the power outage, but it made Lee University history. Never before has a portion of a graduating class had the privilege to march and shake hands with the president twice!

The ceremony went on as planned and the faculty awards were presented. At the close of the service, Dr. Conn left us with one final thought. He referred to the late Bart Giamatti, when he compared life to baseball. Dr. Conn told us “There is a first base, a second base, and a third base, but there is no fourth base. After you touch all of the bases, you come home.” His wish for us is that we would go out and accomplish all that God has called us to do, touching all of the “bases,” and then go home to our families, and home to our beloved Lee University.

I have had the opportunity to reflect on my experience over the last four years at Lee, and now as a second generation Lee University alumnus, I am able to reflect on the future for which this experience has prepared me. In less than a month, I am going to marry second generation Lee alumna Jennifer Belisle. We are relocating to South Carolina to begin our lives in ministry and I consider myself blessed and privileged to have been a part of the experience and ministry that is Lee University. I could not have imagined a more appropriate ending to my Lee experience than having the distinct honor to be a part of the class that was able to graduate “twice.”

Lorri Wickam with her husband, Dr. Mark Wickam

Matthew Propes with fiancé Jennifer Belisle
Lee Alum Takes Sixth on AMERICAN IDOL
Phil Stacey ’02 rises to stardom on #1 TV talent search

by CAMERON FISHER

Lee Alumni have gone on to exceptional music careers in the contemporary Christian, country and Broadway circles.

However, Lee graduate Phil Stacey ’02 took his vocal talents to an unprecedented level earlier this year when he advanced to the Top 6 contestants on the hugely-popular Fox television program American Idol. Stacey, 29, advanced from an original pool of more than 100,000 contestants from all parts of the United States.

For the last five years this talent competition entitled American Idol has built a huge following across the nation and around the world. The show’s premise takes auditions from thousands of young people under 30 across the nation. After several weeks of televised drama of the best and the worst from these auditions, the producers of American Idol whittled the group down to 12 men and 12 women who competed live on the FOX television network starting in January. Over the years the show’s popularity has grown enormously. It has been rated #1 in the nation, not just in its time slot, but for several weeks in a row, consistently beating the major networks by a wide margin.

The show began this past January with the 24 finalists who performed and are kept or eliminated from week to week by a vote of the American public through phone or text voting. The performance show aired on Tuesdays, followed by a results show on Wednesdays. Each week the contestant(s) with the lowest number of votes were eliminated until the final contestant was proclaimed the 2007 winner on May 23. Weekly vote totals from across the nation were as high as 45 million.

Phil’s vocal talent proved popular with the American public as he advanced through the competition of the prime-time phenomenon. He was eliminated from contention on May 2. By virtue of being in the Top Ten, Stacey will be part of a nationwide ‘American Idols Live’ tour between July 7 and September 22 where the group will be in more than 50 cities across the U.S.A.

Lee University hosted an ‘American Idol Party’ in the Student Union for the duration of Phil’s run. Hundreds of students viewed the show on a big screen television while being treated to pizza and cokes and cheering on the Lee alumnus. Several of Phil’s family members made the trek to Cleveland to be a part of the weekly event including his parents, Rev. Gary ’75 and Adrell Stacey who pastor the Church of God in Hendersonville, Tennessee.

According to his parents, Phil grew up in the church, singing in trios with his brother and sister and competing in Teen Talent.

"Phil impressed everyone as a pre-teen in the talent competition in Southern Ohio," his father said "Phil sang duets with his sister and solos with the combined youth choir for camp meetings. Phil was 14 when we moved to Kansas and he became involved in the school music programs and was often featured as a soloist or a lead character in high school productions."

When Phil enrolled at Lee, he auditioned for the Lee Singers and eventually became a featured soloist, was a member of its small group Second Edition, and was elected Lee Singers’ president and student director. Phil’s wife, Kendra ’02 also made a name for herself while she was at Lee, earning a degree in music and also serving as president of the Lee Singers. In addition, she was the first married contes-
tant to win the Miss Parade of Favorites pageant. Phil was her escort, as well as being a “big brother” in her social service club Sigma Nu Sigma.

After graduation, Phil and Kendra moved to Colorado to serve as minister of music at the church pastored by his father in Denver, North Hills Church of God.

“Because Kendra was expecting their first child, Phil felt a responsibility to provide for them the best he could, so he decided to join the Navy,” Gary Stacey recalled. “He auditioned for the Navy music program and made the cut as a vocal soloist. He was stationed at Jacksonville, Florida and became the vocal soloist of the band Pride. He and Kendra also worked in their local church, Regency Church of God, until he was contacted by another church and asked to serve as their minister of music a little closer to their home.”

According to Phil’s father, it was a friend at Regency Church of God who kept encouraging Phil to try out for American Idol. Once convinced, Phil, his father, and brother were in Memphis, Tennessee where Phil was to try his luck among thousands of other potential contestants, while Kendra—expecting their second child—stayed in Jacksonville with her mother.

“Kendra was not due to have their child for at least another two weeks,” Rev Stacey reported. “In the middle of the night, Kendra woke my wife, and told her she had been in labor for awhile. Adrell took her to the hospital and stayed with her during the birth of Phil’s daughter, McKayla. “When Phil heard the news later that morning that he had missed the birth of his daughter, he was ready to drop out of the competition and head home . . . it hit him pretty hard,” Rev. Stacey said. “He could hear McKayla crying in the background.” When the film crew received word of this situation it was broadcast on national television and “became the story of the day,” according to Rev. Stacey. “Phil was not joking when he told Simon (Cowell, one of the three Idol judges) he would rather be with his wife than win American Idol.”

This incident, his age (most of the Top Ten contestants were in their early 20’s) and Phil’s frequent mention of his family throughout the weeks of the show characterized him as a man of character and integrity. In March, the Top Ten American Idol finalists were featured on the cover of People magazine. Dr. Walt Mauldin, vice president of student life at Lee and director of the Lee Singers when Phil was a member, spoke to Phil following the magazine’s debut. “It hit me pretty hard when I saw myself on the cover of People magazine,” Mauldin quoted Phil as saying. “God has presented an amazing platform for me to share the love of Christ. I need to take as much advantage of this opportunity as I possibly can.” The magazine called him the “family man” referring to his wife and two small daughters.

“Every Lee alum should be proud of Phil Stacey and how he was represented on American Idol,” Mauldin stated. Phil and Kendra are some of the finest Christians I know. We need more people to proclaim their Christian witness in the secular market. Who knows what God has in store for this gifted man of God?”

Carrying the Torch: (l-r) Keith Stacey (Phil’s brother), Phil, contestant Sanjaya Malakar, Kendra Stacey, and this year’s winner Jordin Sparks.

Lee students gather for one of the weekly American Idol parties.
OVER THE LAST 20 years, a focused commitment to presenting a global perspective for Lee University students has spilled over into the classroom. Full-time faculty whose native country is somewhere other than America have permeated the campus landscape offering their unique Christian worldviews.

In 1987, the 1200 Lee students were exposed to a virtually All-“American” faculty. There was just one faculty member with an international birth certificate. By contrast, although the enrollment has nearly quadrupled, the international representation on the faculty has increased 16-fold. Today there are 17 full-time faculty members who claim their native soil outside the U.S.

“One of our most cherished goals at Lee is to give our students a global perspective so that they will have some understanding of their place in a multicultural world,” stated vice president for Academics at Lee Dr. Carolyn Dirksen. “We work toward that goal by requiring a significant cross-cultural experience and by bringing students to Lee from all over the world. But the cornerstone of that effort is our international faculty.”

The following pages profile our international faculty. Together they hold 12 doctorates, represent 14 countries and the continents of Asia, Africa, North America, South America and Europe.

HERMILO JASSO, JR.
Native country: Mexico
Joined the faculty: 1987
Highest degree: MBA, International Trade, Laredo State University
Faculty position: Assistant Professor of Business and Economics

HERMILO’S PROFILE: The oldest of 10 kids, he came from a very poor family in a house with no running water. At age 12, his family migrated to the United States and Hermilo began to experience life as a migrant worker. They worked on the fields of Colorado planting onions and asparagus, and in California harvesting grapes, tomatoes and bell peppers. At times his family lived out of the back of a pick-up truck. He hardly recalls any time in his early life that wasn’t hard. As a teen he realized the only way to get out of that situation was to learn some type of skill. It was a miracle of God that he was able to come to Lee as a student in 1979 and graduated in 1982. After earning a master’s degree in business and a successful stint as a stock broker for Merrill Lynch and financial analyst for Metropolitan Life, Hermilo joined the Lee faculty. He helped create and establish the business department’s study abroad programs in Chile, Italy, Russia, and Paraguay.

IN HERMILO’S WORDS: “Lee is the place where God wants me to be...It has given me much and for the last 20 years I have only given a fraction back. This is the only place where I feel complete and self fulfilled.”

MARY B. WALKINS
Native country: Trinidad, West Indies
Joined the faculty: 1992
Highest degree: Ph.D., Northeastern University.
Faculty position: Associate Professor of Mathematics
Courses: Foundations of Geometry, College Algebra, and Contemporary Mathematics

MARY’S PROFILE: Graduated from Lee in 1987. Before arriving at Lee to teach, Mary gained experience while serving as a teaching assistant for five years at Northeastern. She worked as an administrative assistant at Harvard University’s Undergraduate Government Tutorial Office and Northeastern University’s Disability Resource Center.

IN MARY’S WORDS: “My teaching experience at Lee has allowed me to engage with students, teaching colleagues, and staff in meaningful ways. Even though I teach in the ‘tough’ discipline of mathematics, I enjoy the moments of discovery, one-on-one with students, when they come to my office for help. It has been rewarding to take international students to historic sights and sounds in the surrounding areas of Cleveland and Chattanooga. My motto is ‘If I can help somebody as I pass along, then my living shall not be in vain.’”
MICHAEL FREAKE
Native country: Canada
Joined the faculty: 2001
Highest degree: Ph.D., Flinders University of South Australia
Faculty position: Assistant Professor of Biology
Courses: Environmental Science, Principles of Ecology, Evolutionary Biology, Animal Behavior, Introduction to Research

MICHAEL’S PROFILE: Grew up living in many different countries because his father worked as a geologist for Shell. He attended boarding school in England at 10, then read Zoology at St. Catherine’s College, Oxford University. At Oxford, he became a Christian and met his wife, Tracy. They married in Australia, and he worked on his Ph.D. studying homing behavior in lizards.

IN MICHAEL’S WORDS: "I always thought research would be my first job, teaching second. So it has come as a pleasant surprise to find that I really enjoy teaching, especially in small classes among students with whom I can develop a relationship. A lot of people say that college students aren't as bright as they used to be, but I am continually struck by the talent and intelligence of many of the students I teach. I still get to do research, but it is centered on Lee undergraduates, giving them the opportunity to gain some experience working on real scientific issues. My biggest goal is to get students excited about the amazing natural world that God has created, to understand the Creator more deeply through His creation, and encourage them to seriously consider their call to be His servants in taking care of it."

EDLEY J. MOODLEY
Native country: Republic of South Africa
Joined the faculty: 1999
Highest degree: Ph.D., Intercultural Studies, Asbury Theological Seminary
Faculty position: Associate Professor, Intercultural Studies Department
Courses: History of Missions, Theology of Missions, World Religions, Crosscultural Hermeneutics, and Principles and Practice of Missions.

EDLEY’S PROFILE: Born in Durban, South Africa, he is the third of seven children. Since 1976, Edley has been involved in pastoral ministry in various capacities for the Full Gospel Church of God in South Africa. His missionary work took his family to several neighboring African countries. He taught at Bethesda Bible College from 1988 to 1994 before he came to the U.S.A. to enter a graduate program.

IN EDLEY’S WORDS: "I thoroughly endorse the theatrics of pedagogy as I believe teachers are like actors and the classroom our stage. In my discipline, a well 'choreographed' lesson not only contributes to the content and quality of good missiological education, but it also creates the context where students begin to experience the lesson (the act) as an active discovery of reality. I have traveled some 10,000 miles from my home country, South Africa, only to arrive back home—in the classroom at Lee University. I look forward to each new day at Lee and come to work with keen anticipation that something new and exciting will take place on our campus. Thus far, I have not been disappointed."

JUNG IN JO
Native country: South Korea
Joined the faculty: 2005
Highest degree: Ph. D. in Political Science, Michigan State University
Faculty position: Assistant Professor of Political Science
Courses: Contemporary Political Science, International Relations, Conflict and War

JUNG IN’S PROFILE: Her main research and teaching interests are international relations, international conflict, international organization, foreign policy, international political economy, game theory, quantitative methods of political analysis, comparative politics, democratization, Asian politics, and Korean politics. She is a frequent presenter at political science conferences, and is a member of several professional organizations. Her current research focuses on the dynamic linkage between preference similarity and International Trade Agreement and examining the recent explosion of Asian Free Trade Agreements.

IN JUNG IN’S WORDS: “Teaching at Lee is immensely different from teaching at secular schools. Here at Lee, I share my life experiences and spiritual mentality with my students. I share everything with them. I always pray for Lee and my students and I learn a lot from them. They inspire me and have special callings for helping other people. I can tell that they have a different soul and heart. I also enjoy the family environment here. People are very caring and affectionate and this makes me feel blessed to be here.”
JOSE D. MINAY
Native country: Chile, South America
Joined the faculty: 1994
Highest degree: Ph. D., University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Faculty position: Assistant Professor of Spanish
Courses: Elementary, Intermediate, and Conversation Spanish, Composition, Spanish Civilization, Latin American Literature, Special Topics.

JOSE’S PROFILE: Came to the United States to study at Lee and in 1977, while still a student, he was asked to work as a translator for Church of God World Missions. Jose served in that position until 1990. That year he moved to Miami and lived there for four years until 1994. He was contacted by some professors from Lee about a vacancy to teach Spanish. He moved back to Cleveland and took the position.

IN JOSE’S WORDS: “My experience at Lee has been enriching and exciting. One of my first goals was to establish a Spanish intensive program abroad. In 1996, we established the Spanish Summer Institute (SSI) in Quito, Ecuador, until 2000. In 2001 we continued this program in a different location, Santiago, Chile, my home country. This year will be the 13th year and it is stronger than ever.”

PATRICIA McCLUNG
Native country: United Kingdom
Joined the faculty: 2002
Highest degree: Doctor of Education, University of East Anglia, UK
Faculty position: Assistant Professor in Special Education
Courses: Exceptional Child, Behavior Management, Collaborating with Parents, Teachers, and Other Professionals, Teaching Methods for Special Education, Inclusion and Diversity in the Classroom

PATRICIA’S PROFILE: Born in Norwich, Norfolk, England, Patricia went to the University of London to study religion, philosophy, and education and graduated with a teaching degree. On a trip through Europe with a group of Americans she met and subsequently married her husband, Alan McClung. They lived in England for five years before moving to Cleveland, Tenn. in 1988. In Cleveland she worked for Project Head Start and the Bradley County School system.

IN PATRICIA’S WORDS: “When I consider my original childhood understanding of a God who is interested in the future life path of individuals I stand in awe of the way in which He has led me. My position at Lee University is something I could never have dreamed of or planned. I am more than privileged to engage on a daily basis with some of the finest administrators, colleagues, and students with whom anyone could ever ask to interact. I recall the words of the teacher astronaut, Christa McAuliffe, ‘I touch the future, I teach.’ There is no task so daunting but also no greater privilege or calling.”

XIAOQING YU
Native country: China
Joined the faculty: 2004
Highest degree: Master of Music in Violin Performance, Univ. of South Carolina
Faculty position: Assistant Professor of Violin
Courses: Violin, Viola, Chamber Music Coaching

XIAOQING’S PROFILE: Born and raised in Beijing, Xiaoqing (pronounced “shaw-qing”) arrived in the United States in August, 1986 where he transferred to the Manhattan School of Music in New York city six months later. He traveled extensively in Europe performing in over 100 major European cities and came back to the U.S. in 1990 to complete a masters degree in 1992. At that time he was the youngest concertmaster of the Greenville (S.C) Symphony. He taught at Furman University, the South Carolina Governor’s School of Arts and the Charlotte School of Arts.

IN XIAOQING’S WORDS: “Since teaching at Lee, my life has been filled with joy and blessing! The faculty is phenomenal and the environment is thriving. I have found my destiny and I am extremely honored to be selected for His Kingdom’s work!”
INGRID A. HART
Native country: Bahamas
Joined the faculty: 2000 and 2006
Highest degree: M.B.A., University of Tennessee, Chattanooga.
Faculty position: Assistant Professor of Accounting
Courses: Principles of Accounting, Intermediate Accounting, Accounting Information Systems, CPA Review

INGRID’S PROFILE: Having completed an associates degree in accounting at the College of the Bahamas, Ingrid enrolled in the accounting program at Lee University as a transfer student in 1991. Her goal was to complete a bachelor’s and attain the Certified Public Accountant license. After completing a master’s degree in business at the University of Tennessee, she relocated to Atlanta where as a CPA she worked progressively with several public corporations and an international management consulting firm. It was a few short years later that she felt a pull to return to Lee, but this time as a member of the faculty.

IN INGRID’S WORDS: “Helping prepare students for success in life is more appealing and every day I get to look around and see so much potential everywhere. I consider it a blessing to be a small part of this, and love it. In addition to being able to share in the classroom, I also share with students from around the world. In this global environment in which we live, these experiences are important to U.S. students and international students. Teaching is one of these things that I know was a part of God’s perfect plan when He had me in mind. Lee is a wonderful place to practice it.”

ROLANDO CUELLAR
Native country: Peru
Joined the faculty: 2003
Highest degree: Ph.D., Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, Ill.
Faculty position: Assistant Professor of Intercultural Studies
Courses: Introduction to Missions, Urban Evangelism and Church Planting, Foundations for Intercultural Ministry, Church and Urban Transformation

ROLANDO’S PROFILE: After his graduation from Lee, Rolando’s family moved to Chicago. He was invited to serve as student-pastor of a small and dying Presbyterian Hispanic congregation in one of the toughest neighborhoods of Chicago. The Cuellar’s ended up serving this congregation for 20 years. During this time they saw the expansion of the ministry, not only in terms of growth and moving to a larger sanctuary, but the influence of the congregation to bring positive changes in the community.

IN ROLANDO’S WORDS: “I am very fortunate that God brought me to Lee to prepare young men and women for the ministry all over the world. I am encouraged to play a part in their training for the extension of God’s kingdom. I bring to the classroom a balance of my academic preparation and the many years of experience in the inner-city ministry. My commitment to global justice and concern for the poor and the marginalized people in our communities are vital components of my teaching to shape the way in which my students should engage in God’s ministry now and in the years to come.”

PHEBE XU GRAY
Native country: China
Joined the faculty: 2002
Highest degree: Ph.D., University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 1997
Faculty position: Assistant Professor of TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages)
Courses: Language Acquisition and Development; Chinese Language and Culture; Linguistics for TESOL

PHEBE’S PROFILE: Phebe Xu studied at Henan University in China before immigrating to the U.S.A. It was at Henan where she met her husband Randy while he was an exchange student from Lee. She taught English as a second language at Shenzhen University in China and American International School of Guangzhou, China. Since coming to Lee she has developed a number of new courses, including one teaching elementary Chinese which debuts this fall.

IN PHEBE’S WORDS: “I enjoy teaching at Lee because I feel that I am walking in the footsteps of a multitude of faithful servants in the Lord. Whenever I see senior faculty members, such as Dr. Donald Bowdle, Dr. Robert O’Bannon and Dr. Sabord Woods, I think how they have devoted their lives to Lee. I am teaching the same students in the same classrooms they teach, so there is a sense of legacy that I feel humbled to be able to follow. I enjoy our students because they are pure in heart. They deserve the best, so I strive to be the best in my field.”
CAROLINE MAHER BOULIS
Native country: Sudan (also lived in Egypt)
Joined the faculty: 2004
Highest degree: Ph.D. in Mathematics, Florida State University
Faculty position: Assistant Professor of Mathematics
Courses: Differential Equations, Abstract Algebra, Discrete Mathematics, Calculus III, College Algebra, Contemporary Math

CAROLINE'S PROFILE: In 2003 Caroline started applying for academic jobs while finishing her dissertation. She applied to positions that were posted online and received daily e-mails with open positions. One advertisement caught her attention as it was for a Christian school in Illinois. She was not aware that Christian higher education institutions existed and found it pleasingly strange. She read more about the school as she found the idea of working in a Christian environment like 'finding an oasis.' After further research of Christian schools, she discovered Lee's advertisement.

IN CAROLINE'S WORDS: "Back home we only prayed in church, never in a professional setting and never with students. It took me sometime to feel comfortable doing that and now I really enjoy it and thank God for the blessing that I am in a place where it's OK to lift my eyes to the Lord in a relatively public setting. Not only that, but I am sharing spiritual thoughts with my students. I know that God had it planned to have me in this place and I hope I am a blessing to it as much as it is to me."

HENRY MOYO
Native country: Zimbabwe
Joined the faculty: 1996
Highest degree: M.Div., Church of God Theological Seminary.
Faculty position: Instructor in Biblical Studies; Head Coach, Men's Soccer
Courses: Message of the New Testament, Introduction to Theology

HENRY'S PROFILE: Following his conversion to Christianity, and just before completing training as an electrical engineer, Henry felt the call to ministry. He began his journey in Biblical studies starting at the European Bible Seminary in Germany in 1983 and graduated from Overstone College, Northampton, England. In 1992 Henry came to America to further his education for a ministry in Zimbabwe. While in America, he helped Lee University with their soccer program. A former professional soccer player, he was eventually hired on the faculty and as head coach.

IN HENRY'S WORDS: "I thoroughly enjoy interacting with students in the classroom. They are very energetic and zealous in their youthful ways. While this is very exciting, it is also extremely daunting. In the Gospel of John 21:15-17 we read of the dialogue between Jesus and Peter. Jesus asks Peter three times if he loved Him, and commands Peter to "...feed my lambs (sheep)." They come to Lee as lambs from all over the world. It is therefore my task (both in the classroom and on the field), my duty, and responsibility not to poison them, but to nurture them and send them back spiritually healthier than they came."

SARA ORTEGA
Native country: Spain
Joined the faculty: 2005
Highest degrees: Ph.D., Spanish Literature, University of Puerto Rico, 2006; Doctorate in Romance Language Studies, Université Stendhal-Grenoble III.
Faculty position: Assistant Professor of Spanish and French
Courses: Elementary Spanish, Intermediate Spanish, Spanish Literature

SARA'S PROFILE: Born in Barcelona, Spain, to Pentecostal parents, Sara’s family moved to Grenoble, France, in 1983 where she spent her formative years. The family moved to Puerto Rico in 1999. While working on her doctorate, Sara taught French at the University of Puerto Rico. Realizing she wasn’t happy because her spiritual and professional lives seemed totally disconnected, she moved to the United States to look for a job in a Christian School, which eventually led to Lee University.

IN SARA'S WORDS: "Teaching at Lee University has been one of the most enriching experiences of my life, as well as one of its greatest challenges. When students know you really care about them and their personal lives as well as their spiritual needs, the classroom hierarchy is transformed from vertical to horizontal. Being able to speak freely about the Word of God during in-class devotions, or simply pray with my students have been immensely rewarding both for them and me. God has touched my life through each one of them. I always make sure that they will not leave my classroom without hearing that I love them and I pray for them."
SUZANNE HAMID
Native country: Trinidad
Joined the faculty: 1992
Highest degree: Ph.D., Educational Administration and Policy Studies, University of Tennessee at Knoxville.
Faculty position: Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership
Courses: Study Abroad Programs: SIE Cambridge, England, Trinidad and Tobago World Religions Study Tour, and the Summer Semester in China; First Year Programs

SUZANNE’S PROFILE: Suzanne attended a Presbyterian elementary school in Trinidad and attended a Catholic high school taught by Irish nuns. She enrolled at Lee and upon graduation received the Language Arts Department Award. She stayed on at Lee where she established the Office of Student Events (now Student Development). In 1996 she was asked to start the Office of First-Year Programs. She oversees the award-winning Gateway to University Success course. As director of Global Perspectives, she oversees the coordination of all cross-cultural study trips.

IN SUZANNE’S WORDS: “I was raised in an environment that said regardless of your creed or race, you still have to live side by side with people who are not like you. At an early age I recognized that my parents were not going to relocate just because someone who did not look like us or went to the same church, moved in the neighborhood. If that were the case, we would have to keep moving and we would end up in the sea.”

NING AN
Native country: China
Joined the faculty: 2004
Faculty position: Artist in Residence
Highest degree: M.A., New England Conservatory of Music
Courses: Piano (lessons with majors only)

NING’S PROFILE: Ning An made his concerto debut at the age of 16, performing the Rachmaninov Second Piano Concerto with the Cleveland (Ohio) Orchestra. He has since appeared with the London Symphony Orchestra, Warsaw Philharmonic, the Moscow Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Belgian National Symphony, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, the Flemish Radio Symphony, the Stuttgart Philharmonic, and the Taipei Symphony Orchestra. Ning has presented recitals at venues such as Salle Verdi (Milan, Italy), Salle Cortot (Paris), the Palais de Beaux Arts (Antwerp), and Carnegie Hall in New York.

IN NING’S WORDS: “Lee has been a wonderful place to be. The school has been extremely flexible for me as I maintain a full performing career in addition to my teaching. My colleagues have been supportive of our (with my wife, Gloria) efforts to have more visiting artists come to share their music at Lee. The Squires Hall Concert Series as well as our Lee Piano Festival have been very well received and have given me a boost of musical inspiration. I think our music school has a very bright future as we grow and expand not only our enrollment of student but musical aspirations. I am very excited to be here.”

GLORIA CHIEN
Native country: Taiwan
Joined the faculty: 2004
Faculty position: Assistant Professor of Piano

GLORIA’S PROFILE: Dr. Chien began playing piano at age 5 in her native Taiwan, where she won both divisions of the National Piano Competition before coming to the United States when she was 14. She made her orchestral debut at the age of 16 with the Boston Symphony Orchestra. She is a prize winner of the World Piano Competition, Harvard Musical Association Award, as well as the San Antonio International Piano Competition, where she also received the prize for the Best Performance of the Commissioned Work. An avid chamber musician, she was the resident pianist with the Chameleon Arts Ensemble of Boston.

IN GLORIA’S WORDS: “It has been an absolute blessing for Ning and me to be here at Lee for the past three years. I am extremely grateful for how the Lee family has embraced me and supported me, both personally and musically. I am proud of how the students have worked and progressed in the past three years. I really cherish this opportunity of being able to work together on the same campus.”
 Whereas, Lee College is an educational agency owned and operated by the Church of God and,
 Whereas, it has existed as a Bible College or a liberal arts college on this site for fifty years and,
 Whereas, Lee College has now been officially reclassified as a Level III institution by the Southern Association of Colleges and schools and,
 Whereas, by the standards of the Carnegie classification system, it no longer meets the characteristics of a liberal arts college but now meets the criteria for a small, comprehensive university, I do hereby proclaim as executive liaison to the Lee College Board of Directors and as general overseer of the Church of God on this tenth day of May, 1997, by the action of the Board of Directors, this institution formerly known as Lee College shall now become Lee University in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. Amen.

—Paul L. Walker, May 10, 1997

Just like that, Lee College became Lee University.
Although it culminated in a 45-second proclamation delivered at commencement, the path to get to that proclamation was rigorous and arduous, as faculty and staff pursued perhaps the most significant advancement in the history of the institution.
It has now been 10 years of Lee University. While some sentimentalists still refer to it as Lee College, no one can dispute the surge of progress that has taken place, a track record that has even surpassed the previous 10 years of phenomenal growth. It adds up to the right of Lee to fully embrace its place in the realm of higher education, not just in Christian college ranks, but across the board of institutions nationwide.

“In the last 10 years Lee has experienced the excitement and exhilaration of ‘growing pains.’ It has transitioned from a successful college to a significant university, committing to diversity, global perspective, and enhancement of academic programs—all in discharge of the mandate to ministry. What a great place to be!”
—DONALD BOWDLE, religion faculty member since 1962

“God’s hand has accomplished more through Lee than even the most optimistic person could have asked or imagined. But His hands and feet have been staff and faculty, students and supporters and an extraordinary leadership team willing to do the sacrificial work of excellence. It will be the combination of the two that will write the next dramatic chapters of Lee’s story.”
—STEVE WATTERS, Class of ’92, Focus on the Family, Colorado Springs, Colo.

“The past decade at Lee as a university is the fulfillment of the dreams birthed in the past, the actuality of impacting lives in the present and the anticipation of an even brighter future. The Church of God is both proud of and thankful for Lee University.”
—RAYMOND F. CULPEPPER, Lee chairman of the board, 1994–2004
In the years leading up to the May 1997 proclamation, thousands of hours of research, paperwork and preparation had been devoted to the challenge of proving wrong the pundits who felt that Lee College was not ready to join the ranks of a university. The process sparked forums among faculty, alumni and administrators and even students who debated the pros and cons of such a move. In January 1995 the Lee College faculty seminar focused solely on the topic. Their primary concern was the impact of graduate programs upon the cost/quality ratio of the undergraduate programs and the feasibility of generating income. They were less concerned about the marketability of Lee College vs. Lee University and several expressed the fact that Lee did not have to change its name to reflect what is and what it stood for.

Debate continued for the next two years, alongside research on academic and administrative structure, marketability and logistics. Consideration was even given to the costs involved in changing campus signs, legal documents, stationery and even souvenirs in the campus store.

At the end of the process, there was unity and agreement, as well as excitement, toward the change. Students’ opinions were mixed, but were generally supportive of whatever decision came down from the board of directors. Jason Gastwirth, a senior from Marietta, Ga., at the time, summed up the outlook of most of his classmates when he said, “As far as I’m concerned, as long as it (Lee) keeps doing what it is doing now—the education, the overall rounding of students—if becoming a university would allow them to do that even better, then so be it!”

“Since moving to university status, Lee University has quickly taken its place as one of the great Christian Liberal Arts universities. Lee University is preparing students to become excellent global citizens and has among its student body individuals from many nations.” —R. LAMAR VEST, American Bible Society, president of Lee, 1984-86

“Lee University is an asset to Bradley County in many ways: a beautiful campus, active participation in the community by staff and students and in stimulating growth in our local economy. It is also a tremendous benefit to our residents to have a university close to home. Lee also brings students here from all over the world that often end up remaining after graduation and making great contributions to Bradley County. Lee University is a key player in Bradley County’s continued success in the future.”

—GARY DAVIS, Mayor, Bradley County, Tennessee

“The decision to become a university seems now to have been a natural step in the evolution of Lee. At the time it was a very big step. After 10 years Lee wears the university title in a comfortable fashion, perhaps looking more like a university now than we did in the beginning. It speaks of the faith required to claim now what God is calling us to become.”

—DARLIA CONN, Lee University first lady

“The rapid transformation of Lee College to Lee University validated the need for a faith based educational institution focused on developing diverse Christian leaders. It comes as no surprise that Lee continues to raise the bar in setting the standards for Higher Ed in the private sector.”

—CYNDI HOWELL JOINER, Class of ’82, business leader
TO TRIP OR get a grip?” That was my question during the preparations for this year’s Parade of Favorites. From weekly practices to weekend polish- ers, this semester has been anything but relaxing with POF on my plate. Who knew that a one-night event could consume the entire semester? Well soon after being picked to represent Delta Zeta Tau in Parade of Favorites, I realized that I would be in for a huge commitment, and in need of some definite time management skills.

I was excited to arrive at the first practice thinking that it would be a breeze. I’ve been to two POF’s in the past, and the one thing that I remembered was the video of all the practice that went into the production. It seemed like they all had smiling faces so I was pretty excited about getting the whole thing going. When I first jumped into Parade of Favorites I didn’t really think much went into it besides finding some stage presence and a talent, but I was completely wrong come the first practice.

I was ready to leap into learning everything and making friends but the first practice we listened to all the other stuff we had to do, a lot of which I had no clue went into POF. This is when the stress started to kick in. Now I had to think about finding ads; getting a talent; trying to put my platform into words, spending a fortune on all the outfits required, and canceling any plans I may have had on Tuesday nights and Saturday afternoons. That was just the beginning!

Practices were really fun for me because I’m not the type to get embarrassed if I mess things up. I did, however, have to worry about sliding off stage in my slippery heels. Thankfully the couple’s numbers had a lot of holding hands, which helped the girls to keep their balance.

One part that we did this semester that I don’t know if any other POF has done was the mandatory Saturday practices. Every Saturday we met at the recreation center in the middle of the afternoon for a couple hours to practice our steps. It was fun but it really did ruin any plans for day trips out of town.

Because of spring break and con- vocation it was rough trying to fit all the practice time in that we really needed. In fact it was so rough that we were learning our final steps in our week of run-throughs, not to mention finding out all the other stuff that we had to do before the actual production.

There was a lot of approval going on throughout our preparations. We had to have our dresses approved along with our talent and costume outfits. I was very thankful of that because it would be a big disappointment to have a production on a Christian campus where girls are dressed inappropriately. I was very impressed that even in a pageant there was such a drive to exemplify Christ through our image and actions. That above all else was one of the most fulfilling parts of Parade of Favorites to me.

Since I’m not the most competitive person, I didn’t really think much about the competition portion of the whole event until the moment it began that Saturday. The competition finally hit when we began racing around back-stage: to find our escorts, change outfits, and run through our talents to make sure we didn’t choke on stage. The climax of the whole night was obviously the moment we are standing in our
evening gowns waiting to find out who would be Miss Parade of Favorites 2007. Standing there I realized what the whole competition meant to me and hopefully what it meant for the rest of the contestants. This moment was the completion of all our hard work, it was the final moment where we did our best to represent our clubs and organizations on Lee’s campus.

Contrary to what most people think, Parade of Favorites is so much more than a pageant. For some it was a challenge to meet new people, for others it was a time to get away from reality and hang out with new people and have a fresh start. For me it was a time where I was stretched and challenged to step out of my comfort zone and create friendships and moments that would last a lifetime.

In my eyes a crown is not what defines the winner of Parade of Favorites. The crown only gives recognition to the girl who fits all the qualifications required to win the competition. To me, I feel like we have all won in some way because of all the things that we have learned through this experience. I have met some amazing women of God who not only exemplify Him on campus but through a friendly competition. I have formed friendships that mean the world to me, and I have memories that will never leave my mind. To me, Parade of Favorites has been an experience that will forever leave a mark on my college experience here at Lee University.

Emily Essner is a senior from Jackson, Missouri majoring in Telecommunications. The daughter of Lenny and Leslie Essner, she sang “Feels Like Home” while playing the piano for her talent during the pageant while representing the ladies of Delta Zeta Tau.

VanHook Promoted to Assistant Vice President for Research and Records

Jayson VanHook ’98, director of Research and Records, was recently promoted to the level of assistant vice president.

VanHook will continue his work in research and records for the university which includes providing strategic direction and support to the institution in relation to research-based assessment, evaluation, and planning in order to enhance decision-making at the institutional, functional, and unit-levels. The office also provides strategic leadership for the Records and Registration functions at the institution, as well as identifying sources of information and maintaining a repository of data and reports needed to address internal and external requests for information in a timely manner. He also leads periodic institutional-level assessments including general and major academic field tests, institutional surveys, and benchmark analyses such as the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools decadal assessment.

VanHook joins a cadre of young administrators who have given most, if not all of their careers to Lee University. Starting out as graduates and proving their leadership abilities through various posts through the years, the group includes Mike Hayes, Jerome Hammond, and Phil Cook. VanHook began his career at Lee in 1997 as an admissions counselor.
Lee Receives $750,000 for Math

Lee University has been awarded a three-year $750,000 grant from the Tennessee Department of Education to provide training for seven school systems in the teaching of mathematics at the middle-school level.

Three other schools—UT Knoxville, Middle Tennessee State, and East Tennessee State—also received “Mathematics and Science Partnership” grants as part of the state’s campaign to deliver up-to-date, research-based training in teaching strategies. Nearby city and county school systems will partner with Lee in the program.

The grant is based on the research of Dr. Steven Lay, professor of mathematics at Lee and director of the newly funded program. Lay will lead the Lee math faculty in implementing a curriculum in algebra education which he developed and piloted in local schools.

Lee Program Marks Decade of Leading Autism Awareness

By JORDAN LEE

There is a growing interest in addressing the issues that trouble children and school systems affected by Autism across America. This interest is nothing new to Lee University, however. Through the Lee University Developmental Inclusion Classroom (LUDIC) and the Autism Symposium, which the university hosts each summer, the Helen DeVos College of Education has been developing and implementing a program to train its students to teach children with autism effectively.

LUDIC has served as a model program for treating elementary-age children with autism and contracts with local school systems to serve students diagnosed with the disorder. The number served in the program has increased exponentially over the last decade. Between 1992 and 1998, the number of students with autism increased by 243.9 percent nationwide. The Cleveland (Tenn.) City school system saw a 500 percent increase in students with autism or related disabilities between 1999 and 2005, with the increase continuing to grow dramatically every year. The most recent statistics reveal an incidence rate of 1 in 150 children.

Lee University has also helped to increase awareness of autism throughout the southeast. Aside from the progress of the LUDIC program, Lee has hosted the Southeastern Autism Symposium on its campus every year since 2003. The symposium explores all areas and aspects of autism ranging from communication, behavior, health care, sensory development, and adult autism. The symposium has featured many experts in the field, including Dr. Temple Grandin, the most accomplished and well-known adult with autism in the world. She has been featured on major television programs and has been written about in numerous national publications.

Lee Assistant Professor of Education, Dr. Kimberly Moffett, has assisted in raising awareness by publishing her research about families’ personal struggles and triumphs as they face the real-life issues that surround autism. The article, entitled “The Faces of Autism” received national attention after it was featured in Exceptional Parent, an award-winning magazine which supports children and adults with special healthcare needs.

The LUDIC program began in 1999 when Dr. Debbie Murray, dean of Lee’s Helen DeVos College of Education, had an opportunity to help a Lee alum in Florida. Murray arranged for students to travel to Florida to work with the child, who was affected by autism. The family then moved to Cleveland so Lee faculty and students could work more closely with the child. This case helped to develop what LUDIC is today.

LUDIC currently serves 14 children ranging in age from 5 to 10. Located in the Helen DeVos College of Education, the program utilizes Lee University education students, under the guidance of Dr. Tammy Johnson, LUDIC director since 2003. The program operates with more than 40 practicum students each semester, all of them volunteers, as well as student teachers and graduate-level
Grad Programs Get New Image

The Office of Graduate Enrollment has recently released a new branding image specifically for the graduate programs at Lee. Working with the deans and directors of each school and the Office of Publications, the Office of Graduate Enrollment coordinated the effort to create an image that is consistent with the overall branding of the university, but distinctly “graduate” in its design.

The team worked together to produce a look that features the distinctives of Lee’s graduate schools: mentoring relationships with graduate faculty, concern for the individual student, and professional development. The motto, “Ignite Your Intellect,” will be used in all recruitment and marketing pieces to create consistency in the message among the four graduate schools.

According to Director of Graduate Enrollment Vicki Glasscock, “The new marketing efforts will bring name recognition and facilitate growth in the graduate programs here at Lee. But, we know that Lee alumni and friends are our best recruiters, so we look forward to receiving referrals from them for prospective students.”

“For many years Lee University has been developing a reputation for excellent undergraduate programs, but it is only in about the last ten years that graduate programs have developed on our campus,” stated President Conn. “We have brought the Lee University distinctive to graduate education and have set out to only offer graduate degrees in situations where we could bring something special to the process. Undergraduate education is about exploring your interests and defining your calling, but graduate education is about honing your skills and sharpening your ability to deliver on that calling.”

Lee offers graduate programs in Counseling, Education, Music and Religion. Details are available on the website at www.leegraduate.com. Inquiries may be directed to Vicki Glasscock via e-mail at vglasscock@leeuniversity.edu or by calling toll-free 1-800-533-9930.

Lee University one of a small number of universities with an autism program on campus,” says Johnson. “God opened this program as a blessing for us. The awareness has increased and early identification along with early intervention is crucial to making the best progress. Since the media has taken note at the rise of autism, young parents are more likely to have their child tested if they notice the early indicators described by the media.”

LUDIC uses individualization, applied behavior analysis, a language-rich environment, alternative communication systems and visual schedules to develop a program specifically based on each student’s needs. Each child’s program is then monitored and evaluated on an on-going basis. While Johnson uses all of these tools in her program, the most important part is “having a love for students with autism,” she says.

“I have worked with so many different types of students, from gifted children to disruptive students, and I must say—working with these students is my favorite because anyone can teach most other students, but it takes a lot of heart and more specialized training to work with these children. It is very rewarding,” says Johnson.

Johnson isn’t the only person who takes pride in the development of LUDIC. Many of the parents notice progress within their children and have expressed their thankfulness for such a wonderful program. Nancy Jackson, whose son is a LUDIC student, says, “LUDIC is fabulous! The people at LUDIC who teach just seem to get it! They care so much about how these children learn. This program is unique because they treat it as more than just a job. It’s evident in my son’s behavior and demeanor. There is a definite night and day difference. When I show up to pick up my son and I hear Mozart and he looks great, I know there are results.”

The future of LUDIC seems bright. After recently receiving a grant for more than $10,000, the program is on its way to becoming even more developed by purchasing new equipment, furniture and materials for the children. The most recent purchases include Laureate Learning Systems computer software, which is designed especially for users with autism.

“When you hear people talking about autism on television, one of their primary concerns is that their children can’t be handled properly by the public schools,” said Dr. Carolyn Dirksen, Lee University vice president for Academic Affairs. “LUDIC provides high quality education for the children with autism of Cleveland and the surrounding area. And further, LUDIC provides a lab school for all our education majors to learn to work with children with autism. Through LUDIC, we have done a good job of preparing teachers to solve this very significant problem.”

TORCH • Summer 2007
FOR THE PAST five years, Lee University has hosted a race to support research for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. The 65 Roses 5K Road Race course begins and ends in the middle of Lee University's campus, and travels through downtown Cleveland and the Ocoee Historic District. This road race is joined with the Great Strides walk which also benefits the CF Foundation. Hundreds from the community and campus join together to run, or walk for the cure. Over the past seven years Lee has supported this cause, we have raised $253,875 for CF research.

Members of the Lee University community are not only running locally these days. Nashville, Tennessee held its 8th annual Country Music Marathon on Saturday, April 28 and Lee was well represented at this event of nearly 32,000 participants. Over 100 Lee students, staff and alumni took part in the race this year.

The festivities began on Friday night at a Nashville Italian restaurant where three party rooms were filled with Lee alumni. The gathering served many purposes including “carb-loading” for the runners, pep-talk for the anxious first time participants, and fellowship for all. The Alumni Office provided the runners with a “Lee runner’s pack” which included a neon yellow shirt for the race, which later would serve as a powerful identification tool for us.

The following morning around 6:30 a.m. we met and prepared for what the morning would entail. For most it was running or walking a half marathon (13.1 miles). For some it was running a full marathon (26.2 miles), and for others it was supporting all of the participants with prayer, cheering and encouragement along the way.

This was not only a time of achieving goals for us as individuals, but it was a time of team building for the Lee University family. The sense of connectedness we felt was such a valuable experience for all who participated. The support we offered each other before and after the race, and seeing each other during the race (which was inevitable in the bright yellow apparel) was truly significant. It was so much more than just running or walking a considerable distance; it became an illustration of what being a part of the Lee family really means!

Katie Dietz ’06 is an admissions counselor at Lee University enrolled in the masters program. This was her first 5K and half marathon experience.
2007 is the key year for Lee’s $25 million capital campaign. The fund-raising drive, called the “Press Toward the Mark Campaign,” will make possible a new building for the science/math programs, an academic building for the School of Religion, and a new home for the Leonard Center, including a student health clinic, as well as the now-completed expansion of Paul Dana Walker Arena.

The university board of directors voted in May to accelerate the schedule for the religion building, putting it on a “fast track” for potential occupancy for the fall 2008 semester. The 30,000 sq ft building will bring all the religion faculty together in one place for the first time in many years, as well as providing classrooms and other academic facilities.

Meanwhile, the science/math building remains on target for a 2009 opening.

The current construction project, the Leonard Center, is well underway on Parker Streer, near B.L. Hicks Hall.

(Above) Brick masons work alongside crane operators installing trusses. The two-story building will feature offices for the Leonard Center program, as well as a new health clinic, food bank and an open-air passage-way connecting to Schimmels Park. The architect’s rendering of the first floor (below) shows the health clinic to the left and Leonard Center and food bank to the right. The second floor (left) will house class rooms, meeting rooms, and a student lounge. It will be ready for occupancy this fall and a dedication date has been set for October 4.
Each year, the Lee faculty selects the school’s top three senior awards—the Zeno C. Tharp, F.J. Lee, and Charles Paul Conn Awards. The winners were recognized during spring commencement weekend, May 4 and 5.

Andrew Quinley is the recipient of the 2007 Zeno C. Tharp Award. Established in 1955, this award is given to the senior who shows the greatest potential for making a significant contribution to the church. It is named in honor of the sixth president of Lee.

Andrew is a December 2006 graduate with a bachelor of arts in communications and minor in international business. Andrew, whose family has done missionary work all over the world, graduated magna cum laude. During the summer of 2006, Quinley won a prestigious internship with the CNN International Sales division. Since graduation, Andrew has been working with his father in the Philippines to develop a network of international leaders in the developing countries of Asia.

The F.J. Lee Award went to Rachel Heath. Established in 1968, the honor is named for the second president and namesake of the university. It recognizes the senior with the overall most outstanding record of achievement.

Rachel is a double-major in English and Theology. She has been involved as a member of the Student Leadership Council, vice president of the English Honors Society, worked as a research assistant in the Department of Theology and served as Chair of the Women’s Round Table, a group on campus which explores issues related to women in the church.

The 2007 Charles Paul Conn award was presented to Luke Gorton. Established in 1996, this award is given to the senior who shows the greatest promise of intellectual and academic achievement beyond the undergraduate level. It is named in honor of the sixteenth and current president.

Luke is from Tallahassee, Florida, majoring in Spanish and Theology with a minor in Biblical Languages. Luke managed the Spanish Tutoring Program and served as vice-president of Kairos Scholars, and as president of Sigma Delta Pi Spanish Honors Society. He presented papers at the Tennessee Collegiate Honors Conference two consecutive years. Luke is planning to attend graduate school at the University of Georgia to study linguistics and hopes to pursue a life of teaching.
Servant Leadership Scholarships Announced

The Charles W. Conn Servant Leadership Scholarship was awarded to Amber Bush and Joel Rogers during the final chapel service of the semester. Amber is a communications major with a public relations emphasis. She has served on the Student Leadership Council cabinet and will serve the group as the secretary for public relations next semester. She volunteers at the nursery for Christ Community Church and is president-elect for Pi Delta Phi, French Honor Society. Amber has also volunteered her time at such places as the Chattanooga Food Bank, Ronald McDonald House, Ocoee Middle School and with many on-campus events.

Joel has served as president and founder of the on-campus outreach team, Watchmen33; volunteered with youth camp and served as a youth and college pastor in North Carolina. He founded the non-profit organization, The Faceless Generation, and serves as chairman of the board for the outreach ministry. Joel is also involved with Brooke Upton Ministries, Kamotion Entertainment, Consumed Drama Ministries, Consuming Fire Ministries, The Spot Coffee Shop, Spotlight Coffee Company, Raise up! Youth Phenomenon, and Faceless Productions.

The Charles W. Conn Servant Leadership Scholarship was established in 2003 to honor President Emeritus Charles W. Conn. As part of the university's efforts to emphasize the importance of serving others, the award is given annually to rising seniors who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to service during their time at Lee.

Students who receive this scholarship give a portion of the proceeds to a charity of their choice.

Lee Day: Another Kind of Homecoming

I’ve been around Lee University since before I was a student back in the early ’80s. I attended Lee Day as a prospective student, lived with it while I was a student, and helped produce it when I was employed there. However, this year I re-discovered another facet of Lee Day: a homecoming.

I have a son, Grant, who is a senior at Lee and a daughter, Amanda, who will be enrolling as a freshman this fall. As I went through the motions of being a doting parent to Amanda (as much as she would let me), I took note of other parents who were doing the same thing. Family units were huddled together: Mom, Dad, prospect and sometimes little brother as they waltzed from event to event, party to party and session to session. During the Friday night “Incrediblebash,” in between games and teenage-level challenges to the audience, I found myself talking to parents who were students when I was. It was a class reunion from my era.

Although most of them traveled from a much further distance than I did, we were all here together for the same purpose: to see that our children are offered the same opportunity we had for a meaningful Lee experience.

As I visited with them, the conversations with my past classmates usually centered around the same topic: Our kids are going to have it so much better than we did. Although none of us would trade our memories, we knew that as our kids developed their own, it would be with 4,000 other students, in new and more modern dormitories and at a student union rather than a canteen. They would learn from faculty who, as a whole, have a higher percentage of doctoral degrees. But our kids would still be challenged to live a life worthy of the calling for which they have been called and to worship the God who gives that call.

Lee Day remains the most effective weekend of recruitment for Lee University, but now I know from experience that it also rates as a first class reunion.
DEPARTMENTAL FOCUS

Department of Natural Sciences and Mathematics Looking Forward

By DR. PAUL DELALUZ

The Department of Natural Sciences and Mathematics is poised for greatness. We are becoming a department on campus that not only influences our students, but the efforts of our faculty are influencing regional and national education practices. With twenty-two full-time faculty members there are many projects and efforts that can be highlighted but we would like to share with the alumni only a few areas of note.

New Facility

For many alumni it is no secret that a new science facility has been a high priority of the department for several years. It is time. With the initiation of the Press Towards the Mark campaign the hope for a new building is becoming a reality. The faculty have been charged with development of a needs assessment plan for our programs which will be used to develop the design of the new building. We anticipate three outcomes of the new facility: 1. modern, flexible laboratory and teaching spaces, 2. re-incorporation of the mathematics faculty into our building, 3. renovation of the Beach Building. This new facility will provide the much needed space and infusion of excitement needed to thrust our programs to a level that will rival any University.

INAT Project – Improving Numeracy and Algebraic Thinking

Identification of the common errors found in high school student’s algebra has been a topic of conversation within Dr. Steven Lay’s family for several generations. This past year Dr. Lay received a $750,000 grant from the Math and Science Partnership of the Department of Education to train and provide curriculum for middle school teachers. This method will improve seventh and eighth grade student’s understanding of mathematical concepts so they can be successful in algebra. The funds will allow teachers in the Tennessee region to attend a summer training institute to teach them how to incorporate the new curriculum into their classroom. The project will culminate in the assessment of student success in high school algebra. The grant activities are authorized for three years with the possible implementation of this program at the national level, if proven successful.
Laboratory Instrumentation

Several grants and investments have been secured for our biology and physical sciences laboratories. A grant received by Drs. Paul DeLaLuz and Eddie Brown from the National Science Foundation has provided $117,471 to purchase an FT-NMR. This instrument allows students to investigate molecules at the atomic level to determine structure and is essential to any chemistry program. In April, Drs. Lori West and Michael Freake were awarded a LI-COR Biosciences grant allowing the purchase of a $93,806 DNA sequencer including the functionality for microsatellites analysis for use in our courses. The biology division as also benefited from a university investment of over $110,000 in an upgrading of the biology laboratories providing the equipment necessary to investigate molecular biology. DNA analysis and biotechnology are now being introduced at the freshman and sophomore levels which will allow students expertise needed to work in industry or prepare them for graduate work in the sciences. One item of note is that all this instrument, while found at a large state school, are not always available for use at the undergraduate level. All instrumentation at Lee is intended for undergraduate use and this opportunity allows our students the access they may not receive in other programs.

National Best Practice – Environmental Science

The Center for Educational Policy Research (CEPR), on behalf of the College Board (the organization that oversees high school Advance Placement (AP) courses) has recognized Dr. Michael Freake’s BIOL-104 Environmental Science course as a national best practice course. This particular course was identified as being exemplary and elements are being modeled in the creation of national standards for AP courses in environmental sciences. The goal of this effort was to identify criteria for the redesign of AP courses, development of exams, and standards for professional development for AP teachers. Dr. David T. Conley, the Director of the Center for Educational Policy Research wrote that Lee University contributions are “improving educational practices nationally.”

Student Successes

When potential students visit our department the primary question is how successful our program is at placing students in graduate and medical programs. Our record in this area is becoming impressive. Since 1999 we have had over 110 students accepted into medical, dental, graduate Ph.D. and masters, physical therapy, pharmacy, and health related programs. Not only are we placing these students in prominent state school but also in elite private programs including John Hopkins School of Medicine, Tulane, Mayo Clinic Medical School, Harvard, Yale, Wake Forest, Purdue, Emory, Vanderbilt, and Albert Einstein College of Medicine to name a few. Years ago our programs anticipated one or two student into graduate level training and now we are looking forward to student being accepted at multiple schools. This is a dramatic change for our department and with efforts from the University and faculty our department’s physical resources and expanded opportunities will translate into even greater successes for future students.

Dr. Paul DeLaLuz is chairman of the Department of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.
Woods Retires After 40 Years at Lee

Lee University Professor of English Dr. Sabord Woods retired in May after 40 years as a member of Lee’s faculty. A reception held on April 28 honored the veteran professor and the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages took the opportunity to announce the establishment of the Sabord Woods Award.

The Sabord Woods Award will go to the graduating senior English major each year who best models the integration of faith and scholarship. The recipient will receive $250 and have his/her name inscribed on a plaque in the department.

“This award is really the highlight of my career here,” said Woods, “for it represents what has been crucially important to me throughout my 40 years of teaching at Lee—my strong belief in Christian vocation and the idea that there is properly no split between sacred and secular, but that Truth in Scripture and real truth within an academic discipline form, when all has been revealed (perhaps in heaven), will be a seamless whole.”

Woods attended Lee from 1957-1959, and joined the Lee faculty in the English department in 1967. A veteran of the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages, Dr. Woods taught Shakespeare, the English capstone course and English literature.

“I have watched Lee develop from a Bible College and fledging liberal arts school to a small comprehensive university with interesting, desirable diversity, and I’ve enjoyed participating in that process,” said Woods. “Lee has been a very fulfilling place to work, particularly because of its Christian identification. I will miss students, colleagues, and associates in church and community activities. But I will visit often and observe with great interest the continued progress of the university.”

A recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award in 1985, Dr. Woods has served as acting chair of the Department of Language Arts during several intervals and has chaired numerous elected and appointed faculty committees.

“Dr. Sabord Woods has modeled what it means to be a Christian scholar,” said Dr. Jean Eledge, chair of the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages. “On a daily basis, he has communicated to students much more than his knowledge of British literature. He has held before them his personal standard of excellence, his love of learning and the way that his faith remains at the core of it all.”

“Dr. Woods has been the cornerstone of the English faculty since the late 1960s” stated Dr. Carolyn Dirksen, vice president of academics at Lee. “He taught many of the current faculty and has had a significant influence on the curriculum. Sabord is a true intellectual and advocate for quality of instruction in English, and I can’t really imagine what Lee will be like without him. He has been a mentor, teacher, and friend to so many of us that his impression on Lee is indelible.”

Moore to Lead Department of Theology

Dr. Rickie D. Moore ’76 has been appointed chairman of the Department of Theology at Lee University, effective this fall. Moore holds a Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University and a B.A. from Lee University. An ordained minister in the Church of God, he has been a professor of Old Testament at the Church of God Theological Seminary since 1982. However, he also has taught part-time in the Lee University School of Religion since 1997 where he has been one of the more popular professors. His teaching specialty is the Old Testament prophets and he is a founding and current editor of the Journal of Pentecostal Theology, the first academic serial ever to feature constructive theology from a Pentecostal perspective on an international scholarly level. An advocate of intercessory prayer, he serves as leader of an intercessory prayer team and an inter-generational Sunday school group, called Crossroads at the Westminster Church of God.

He and his wife, Jean Hamilton Moore ’77 is a registered nurse who has recently served in the Lee University Health Clinic. They have two daughters, Emily ’04, who is married to Matthew Young ’02, and Hannah, who is a junior at Lee.

Faculty Facts

Dr. Donna Summerlin and Dr. Andrew Lee honor Dr. Sabord Woods (right) at his retirement reception.
Faculty Receive Top Awards

Each year at spring commencement, one faculty member is honored for excellence in the classroom, for advising and for scholarship. The following are excerpts from the presentations made to this year’s honorees by President Conn at graduation:

TONY DEA TON – Excellence in Teaching
Tony Deaton has demonstrated year after year what it means to invest himself in his students. Since his work is primarily one-on-one with voice majors, Tony teaches a relatively small number of students, and it allows him to focus all of his considerable passion for music on some of Lee’s best voice majors. Many of his students have risen to the challenge of meeting Tony’s very high expectations, and have been objects of his nurturing style and his personal coaching, not just in music, but in the larger ambitions of the performer’s life.

MICHAEL FREAKE – Excellence in Scholarship
For his professional life, Dr. Michael Freake has earned a reputation as a first rate scholar who not only maintained his own research, but who is conspicuously successful at sharing it with his undergraduate students. Michael demonstrates, every year, that a professor at Lee can combine, with a high level of quality, the demands of undergraduate teaching with his passion and energy for research that gets published, gets funded, and gets his students involved.

LOUIS MORGAN – Excellence in Advising
Louis Morgan is a member of the faculty of the Squires Library, where he holds the position of Instructional Services Librarian. In this role, he advises students before they are assigned to departments in their majors. It is not uncommon for Louis to spend hours with individual advisees, to send them notes of encouragement, to seek them out when they seem to be struggling, and even to stay in touch with them after they have been assigned to the departmental advisors. He invests in the lives of students as people, rather than merely processing their academic paperwork.
Basketball Squad Makes Nationals Again

For the second straight season the Lee men’s basketball team, under the leadership of second-year coach Tommy Brown, earned a spot in the 32-team NAIA National Tournament field. The Flames finished the season at 22-10 and were ranked as high as 19th during the 2006-07 campaign. They were eliminated from national tournament play by Concordia (Calif.) University in the first round. Concordia went on to finish the national event in the runner-up position.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON

• Freshman Joel Houghton receiving the NAIA Champions of Character $2,000 scholarship at the annual national tournament banquet. The program focuses on five core character values: respect, responsibility, integrity, servant leadership and sportsmanship. Houghton is a mentor to several disadvantaged children in the Cleveland area. Last summer he did mission work through Lee and the basketball team in the Dominican Republic. The Lee athlete also works with children at his home church in Rockwell, N.C. He currently carries a 3.98 GPA and won the Outstanding English Freshman Scholar Award, he is a member of the Southern States Athletic Conference All Academic team and is a recipient of the Robert C. Byrd Scholarship for high character within a student athlete at Lee.

• Kedrick (Modie) Johnson being named 3rd-Team NAIA All-American. Johnson, who was No. 2 in the nation in field goal percentage (67 percent) was also All-SSAC and a member of the SSAC All-Tournament team. Sir-Lee Mason was selected as a NAIA Honorable Mention All-American. He was All-SSAC and tied the 3-point single-game record for most treys (9).

• The Flames defeated arch-rival Tennessee Temple twice, once in a three-overtime 85-82 thriller. After a victory over highly ranked Lambuth University, the Lee club went on to finish the regular season with six straight wins, including huge SSAC road triumphs over Reinhardt College, Berry College, Southern Wesleyan and Southern Polytechnic State University to wrap up a slot in the NAIA National Tournament.

• Four Flames averaged in double-figure scoring. Johnson was best with 15.6 points and 9.1 rebounds per outing. Mason followed closely at 14.9 ppg. Junior Kellen Pickel tallied 11.3 points and junior Kevin Green rounded out the scoring at 10.3 per contest. Coach Brown is in the midst of rounding up additional roundball talent as the Flames get ready for 2007-08 and another run at the SSAC and NAIA championships.

Kedrick (Modie) Johnson was named an NAIA All-American after leading the Flames to the National Tournament for the second straight season.
In January the Lady Flames were ranked third in the NAIA National polls, the highest ranking ever by a Lee women’s basketball team. Rowe completed his third season at Lee and has taken three straight teams to the NAIA National Tournament. He now owns over 200 college coaching wins and counting stints at Brescia and Lee, has taken seven straight teams to the national event. Rowe was named the SSAC Coach of the Year.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:
• Jessica Still being named 2nd-Team NAIA All-American. The gifted junior guard from Owensboro, Ky. also scored her 1,000th career points during the season and was named to the SSAC All-Conference team.
• Jan Dodson was an Honorable Mention NAIA All-American. The multi-talented Dodson was a member of the SSAC All-Conference and All-Tournament teams. She capped off the year by being listed on the NAIA Academic All-American and SSAC All-Academic squads.
• Post player Katie Nelson was named the Freshman of the Year in the SSAC and to the All-Freshman team.
• Aaron Richmond (University of Toledo) and Fallon Lee (Georgia Southern) were All-SSAC and Lee, was named the Most Valuable Player of the SSAC Tournament.
• Named to the NAIA Academic All-American team were Keaton Bodiford, Jessica Lucas and Jeannie Vorbeck. Six Lady Flames were represented on the SSAC Academic Scholar team.
• Key victories came over Trevecca Nazarene (during the Disney Classic) Bryan College twice, Tennessee Wesleyan twice, Berry College three times, Breton Parker three times, Auburn University Montgomery twice and a key road win at Campbellsville University.
• With his entire starting unit returning for 2007-08, coach Rowe and the Lady Flames should be primed and ready for the new year.
Athletics

Flames Win Super Region: Head to World Series

The 2007 Lee baseball team has shattered the record book and a group of 10 talented seniors are leading the charge into the NAIA College World Series which begins as this issue of Torch is headed to press.

Senior shortstop Lance Zawadzki, who transferred to Lee last fall, is the leader of the team that was 50-13 heading into the World Series. Zawadzki sets records for runs scored (88), hits (104), average (.477), doubles (26), and on base percentage (.546). Senior teammates Aaron Simmons, Andrew Shaver, Tony Perez, Kyle Sullivan, Craig Trent, Gabe Seten, Daniel Howard, Michael Oberg and Nick Utley have joined Zawadzki in not only breaking records, but in leading first-year coach Mark Brew's Flames to NAIA Region XIII and baseball's first-ever Atlantic South Super Region crown. The Flames have 10 players hitting better than .300. The hottest hitter of all in recent games has been catcher Michael Valadez. After a late start, Valadez has raised his average up to .333. He has 11 doubles, three homer runs and 32 runs batted in—mostly coming in the last 10 games.

“Seniors like this don’t usually come along but maybe one time in a coach’s career,” said Brew. “I have been blessed. So many coaches never make a NAIA World Series and these guys are taking me in my very first year. I always tell people that coaches never hit, throw or catch the ball. They are just as good as their players, and these guys are a special group.”

Currently Simmons is the holder of the Lee runs batted in mark (72), but Zawadzki (70) and Elvis Sosa (62) have broken the old RBI record (61), which was held by Jimmy Stanfield.

Seten has enjoyed a remarkable season on the mound. His earned run average is at 1.58, 8–4 for the year and has 26 wins during his career. The right-handed hurler needs on more win to tie Brandon Cofer’s mark (27) for wins in a career. Other pitching leaders are Cody Campbell (10-2), Howard (5-1), Trent (6-0), Oberg (7-1) and Nick Utley (4-1).

Lee finished third in the SSAC tournament, then rebounded to whip No. 9 Belhaven (Miss), No. 12 Southern Polytechnic State (Ga.) and No. 4 Auburn University Montgomery twice to claim the NAIA Region XIII title. One week later, they came back to whip St. Thomas (Fla.) in the best of three series.
and claim their first Super Region championship.

The amazing late-season stretch saw the Flames hit and score runs like never seen before by many baseball teams at any level. In their last eight games, Brew’s team scored a whopping 97 runs.

Individual national honors have not yet been released by the NAIA. Shaver, Hutslar and Zawadzki have received All-Conference and All-Region honors. Seten is also an all-conference pitcher and joins Shaver and Hutslar as NAIA All-American Scholar Athletes. §
Tennis Teams Wrap Up Outstanding Seasons

Fueled by a very solid core of underclassmen and a little veteran leadership at the top, both the men's and women's tennis teams had very strong 2007 seasons. Both squads advanced to the NAIA National Tournament while garnering their highest rankings in program history.

The Lee men were consistently ranked in the top 15 in the nation, peaking at No. 9, the highest in Lee history. The Flames spent most of the season ranked as the 10th best, earning them an at-large bid to nationals. The Maroon and White made the most of the opportunity, advancing all the way to the Elite Eight of the tourney. They were the only unseeded team to make it that deep in the championships, and reset a standard which had never seen a Lee team progress past the second round.

Along the way, the Flames had several impressive victories. After starting off the season with a loss, Lee reeled off a record-tying string of eight straight victories. The netters added another big win on the late in the regular season, topping No. 11 Berry College to secure second place in the Southern States Athletic Conference behind AUM.

After the Vikings defeated the Flames in the first round of the SSAC Tournament, Lee took revenge in the semifinals of the Region XIII Tournament to advance to the championship for the first time ever.

The Flames earned a 7-2 victory of Walsh University in the opening round of nationals, and then defeated No. 7 Savannah College of Art and Design, 5-3. Second-ranked Azusa Pacific University then concluded Lee’s impressive season with a 5-1 win over coach Tony Cavett’s club. The Flames finished at 15-5, the fourth-most wins in program history.

A number of Flames earned distinct honors for the first time. Lee was represented on the All-Region XIII Team. Dimitar Pamukchiyan (10-5 in singles, 12-7 in doubles) and Sidney Victoratto, Jr. (11-5, 12-7) were both listed on the roster. Christian Thobo-Carlsen also had a noteworthy season at No. 5 in the singles lineup. After losing his match to AUM, Thobo-Carlsen won 17 straight matches to finish at 17-1, including a 7-1 mark versus ranked opponents. He was 15-5 in doubles play with Juan Saa. Five Flames were tabbed on the SSAC All-Academic Team. Caio Borges, Pamukchiyan, Saa, Thobo-Carlsen, and Victoratto all earned places for their work in the classroom. The team will lose only senior Alex Figueiredo (13-6) for next season. Figueiredo won 50 singles games in his career and another 48 in doubles.

The Lady Flames also had a fine all-around campaign. The Lee women captured a record No. 13 ranking in the NAIA poll and spent the entire season climbing up the ratings. They finished at 13-6, continuing the run of seasons without a losing record at eight. The team shattered the program record for winning streaks, notching 10 straight victories after two losses to highly-ranked opponents to start the year.

Despite a loss to AUM in the conference postseason and a difficult defeat from Shorter in region action, Lee proudly donned the Maroon and White at the NAIA National Tournament to conclude the season. Though they lost to a strong Lewis-Clark State College team (ranked No. 18), the Lady Flames will lose only one senior in Amanda North.

North went 13-6 in singles and 12-7 in doubles and was named an NAIA All-American Scholar-Athlete and earned a spot on the SSAC All-Academic Team to conclude a fine career. She totaled a 47-20 record in singles and a 45-22 doubles mark while at Lee. She was joined as a conference scholar-athlete by Brooklyn Goodell, Amy Kresge, Kelli Miller, and Erin Schanke.
For Coach Jack Souther and his Lee University golf team, things just couldn’t get much better. The veteran skipper would love to have a regional and national title added to his team’s treasures, but he’s pleased with seven first-place finishes in 12 tournaments during the fall and spring.

As of press time, the Flames were headed to their third straight appearance in the NAIA National Tournament. Senior Nick Parker made the cut in the individual field last May. This trip Souther wanted his entire team to make the final cut and place high against the nation’s best.

“It has been a good year,” said Souther. “I’ve had a great group of young men to work with. We are blessed with talented seniors. It is the most tournaments won by any of my teams.”

Paced by senior Brandon Cissom, Lee kicked off the fall season by winning the Crooked Creek Invitational in London, Ky. The Flames posted a 36-hole team total of 587. Playing next at nearby Springbrook in the Tennessee Wesleyan tournament, the Flames ran away from the field and finished at 575.

One of the biggest wins of the year came at Grenelefe Tournament in Babson, Fla. The 599 total was good enough to whip Embry-Riddle University and several other outstanding teams. A trip to Seneca, S.C. and the championship of the Jack Shadwick Invitational followed. The Flames outdid Shorter College by 17 strokes and a 598 finish. Springtime saw Lee continue its winning ways. The first title came on March 12 in Berry College’s Rome News-Tribune Invitational. The 594 tally was eight strokes better than Berry College’s 602. Cissom continued to burn up the links and fired a 1-under par 143.

Another trip to Florida and the Eagle Invitational, hosted by Embry-Riddle followed. Not only was it back-to-back tournament wins for the Flames, they also carried their sixth tournament victory back to Cleveland.

Lee made it three in a row by capturing the Southern Kentucky Invitational on March 30. They defeated Lindsey-Wilson College by six strokes and finished at 583. The Flames had to settle for a third-place outing at the famous Brickyard and a disappointing fourth at the SSAC/Region XIII Tournament. However, Souther’s team received an at-large berth to the national tournament. §
First-Team NAIA All-Americans Rachel Tuck and Andrew Shaver have been named the 2007 winners of the annual Paul Conn Student Athlete of the Year awards. The pair has played a vital role in helping the Lee University athletic program join an elite list of NAIA colleges, as they combined to help their teams post an impressive 259-82 women’s soccer and baseball record over the past four years.

After completing her brilliant career as a defender for coach Matt Yelton’s team, Tuck became the first women’s soccer player to have her jersey retired. A first-team All-American in 2004 and a second team All-American in 2006, the talented center back was All-SSAC and All-Region XIII for three straight seasons. She is also a three-time SSAC Scholar Athlete and a two-time NAIA All-American Scholar.

“Rachel is exceptional not just because of what she does on the field, but more importantly for the character and integrity that she has brought to our team and our game,” Yelton said. “I think this award is given to an individual who is supposed to represent all of the good things about being a student-athlete, and I can’t think of a better example than Rachel.”

As a sophomore, Shaver helped direct the Flames to their first appearance in the NAIA College World Series. He has a career batting average of well over .350 and hit .401 last season. He is Lee’s career doubles leader with 66 and has scored a record 236 runs over the past four years. A First-Team NAIA All-American in 2006, he was also named the Region XIII and SSAC Player of the Year. Shaver is a three-time SSAC Scholar Athlete and a two-time NAIA All-American Scholar.

“But he has been a special player in our program for four years,” said coach Brew. “He will graduate with honors, has re-written the record books offensively during his tenure in our baseball program, and has actively participated in community service projects throughout his academic career at Lee. He has been a model of leadership both on and off the field to our team.”

Veteran golfer Gene Rice teamed with former Lee University All-American Josh Coley, Royce McKenzie and Jason Rice to claim top honors in the Annual Stanley Butler Memorial Golf Classic staged at the Chatata Valley Golf Club in Cleveland.

The foursome combined for a sizzling 16-under-par score of 56 in the select shot format. The annual event was and featured 28 teams.

Second place in the Championship Flight was claimed by Greg Rush, Ron Wilson, Ron Porter and Lebron Sterchi. They finished two strokes back and 14-under-par (58). Jerry McGaha joined with Bob McIntire, Ellis Haney and Don Haney for third place at 13-under-par (59). The battle for first place in the B Flight was a log-jam. No less than three teams turned in an 8-under-par 64. When the smoke had cleared, Wally Hindman, Mike Arrington, Caleb Hindman and Jeff Rauiser walked away with the big prize. They won a double scorecard playoff and forced Scott Hicks, Sonny Hicks, Chris Neighbors and Michael Davis to settle for the second-place prize. Lee Stewart, Edd Watson, Love Watson and Andy Sneed also carded a 64 and were named the third-place winners. Harry Ledford claimed the closest to the pin prize at No. 14. Glen Woodard had the longest drive at No. 6. Pam Rowe had the straightest drive at No. 11 and Jeff Battles was closest to the pin at No. 2.
Three outstanding seniors, Maranda Mounce, JaAndrea Hinton and Emily Broyles, were true leaders as the Lady Flames marched to another successful 43-16 season and made their third-straight trip to the NAIA National Softball Championship in Decatur, Ala. in late May.

Coach Emily Russell will have to search far and wide for replacements for the threesome. Mounce, who was not only a record-setting player on the field but a star as well in the classroom, set marks that will be hard to break. The infielder leaves Lee as the season batting average leader (.460); runs scored (67); on-base percentage (.496); and stolen bases (34 in 35 attempts). She had 99 hits and just missed setting the record held by former teammate Jill Webb (101).

Hinton was a four-year standout for the Lady Flames. Small in stature but huge in heart, Hinton blasted a record-setting 17 home runs this season. The slick-fielding third baseman broke her own career home-run record (28). She leaves Lee with an amazing 45 four-baggers. Jay now owns the walks per-season mark (36).

Like Mounce, Broyles transferred to Lee after junior college and produced two solid seasons. She moved to first base this season and turned into one of coach Russell’s best hitters in the clutch. Broyles hit .347 and paced the team in doubles with 17. She had 66 hits and drove in 37 runs.

Crippled by injuries to the pitching staff for a large part of the season, coach Russell had to rely on a freshman and a sophomore to carry the large load of the mound duties late in the year. Freshman Sara Mitchell finished with a 5-3 record and sophomore Brittany Rowe posted a 7-4 mark. Both had earned run averages of under 2.50. Junior Jessica Kerr battled injuries and finished with an impressive 17-5 record and junior Sarah Warren was 14-4.

The Lady Flames hosted and captured the SSAC conference tournament title and finished 1-3 in NAIA National Tournament pool play. The most impressive showing of the season came during an invitational tournament in Orange Beach, Ala. Lee defeated No. 2 ranked Oklahoma City in that tournament 3-2.

The 43 victories represent the second best ever by a Lee softball team.

The record of 55 wins was set last season. Mounce, Hinton and Broyles were also members of that squad. Lee softball has now won 98 games over the last two remarkable seasons.
Lee Volleyball Signs First Collegiate Female Athlete From Nicaragua

The Lee University volleyball team became a part of history recently when coaches Andrea and Kevin Hudson signed Jacky Toruno-Gordon of Nicaragua. According to the Lee staff, Jacky became the first female athlete to come from Nicaragua to America and play a college sport.

“It was a really big deal over there,” said coach Andrea Hudson. “Every major news station in the country was at the signing and also every newspaper. A lot of male athletes have played in America, but no female players.”

Coach Hudson said, “Jacky’s coming to Lee was definitely part of a bigger plan for her life. She is an excellent volleyball player with a lot of great experience to bring to our team. Getting her education will be the most important reason for coming to the United States. However, adding her tremendous volleyball skills to our team will certainly increase our chances of going further in the playoffs next year. She is quick and a great jumper as well as blocker. I am excited for her as an athlete and helping give her the opportunity to get a degree here in America.”

At 5-foot-9, Jacky has played middle blocker for the Nicaragua National Volleyball Team, but is willing to be used wherever the Lee coaching staff feels she will contribute the most, according to Judy Fox of Ignite International, who helped direct the young athlete to Lee.

The Nicaraguan player heard about Lee University through Ignite International and Fox’s influence. “I had a sports ministry team in Nicaragua last August to compete with her team. Following the conclusion of the tour, I had committed to stay and travel with the Nicaragua team to the Central American Championships as an assistant coach. During the 10 days together, I talked with Jacky’s national team coach about the possibility of talking with her about potential recruitment to a university in the United States.

“He was agreeable to this idea and the next step was to introduce the idea to Jacky, and a conversation that took place the same day. She expressed that this was something she would like to pursue and that she desired to attend a Christian university. She knew nothing about universities and had never heard of Lee at that time. We videotaped the competition, and upon return to the states, I sent the DVD to a very small handful of coaches, who I have known personally, respect highly and would have no reservations uprooting a young lady from her home and placing her in their hands.”

Fox explained that “Lee University was my personal desire for Jacky, as Andrea and I have had close mutual friends over the years and have enjoyed a growing friendship through recruiting contacts in the past couple of years. I have, for quite some time, had great respect for Andrea and the quality of program that she has built at Lee.”

Fox added that “Jacky had no point of reference and really just completely trusted whatever place I suggested for her—she has no idea how this process works, or how it all actually happened...she only knows that I helped open a door to her dream come true, and that coach Hudson is offering her the opportunity of a lifetime—one that no volleyball player in her homeland has ever had before. She is grateful and excited to give her best to the program.”

Toruno-Gordon said, “I am very excited and glad to be the first female to play in America. My country is very proud of this opportunity.”

Katie Thornton (Lee volleyball player) could tell you about the press conference where all of the major TV stations were represented, as well as the three national newspapers and a radio station. After the press conference, several television programs interviewed Jacky live. And one newspaper (La Prensa) did a three-page spread on her—front page and entire inside of the paper was an article and interview.

Toruno-Gordon said she would be honored to be recognized as an example for other young athletes in Nicaragua to follow. She said she understands the weight of this opportunity and the potential for her experience to plant a dream in other youngsters, and she hopes that younger players will be inspired to dream bigger dreams.
The 2006-07 seasons are a testimony to the job Lee University Athletic Director and his coaching staffs have done. The Lady Flames and Flames fielded 12 teams and 11 of those clubs or individuals advanced to NAIA National Tournament competition. Listed below are some of the records and accomplishments of our athletic teams.

**WOMEN**

**Basketball**
Under coach Marty Rowe, the ladies enjoyed another remarkable year. They won the SSAC regular season and conference tournament championships. They finished 29-4 and lost in first round at the National Tournament to Brescia (Ky.), 81-73 (OT)

**Cross Country**
Under coach Bruce Bayliss, the women’s cross country team had Annie Houghton and Anna Hrushka qualify for NAIA National Championships. Houghton finished 94th out of 268 (19:31) Hrushka had a time of (20:35).

**Softball**
Under coach Emily Russell, the team claimed the SSAC tournament championship and finished the year 43-16. In NAIA National Tournament Pool Play, they lost to Simon Fraser (B.C.), 9-8, lost to Vanguard (Calif.), 5-4, lost to Oklahoma City, 10-1 and defeated Columbia (Mo.), 7-4.

**Soccer**
Under coach Matt Yelton, the Lady Flames won the SSAC regular season, conference tournament and Region XIII crown. They were 19-4 and advanced to quarter-final round of the NAIA National Tournament. They defeated Carroll (Mont.), 2-1 and lost to Martin Methodist (Tenn.), 3-1

**Tennis**
Under coach Tony Cavett, the ladies were an impressive 13-6, and lost in first round of the NAIA National Tournament to Lewis-Clark State(Idaho), 6-3

**Volleyball**
Under coach Andrea Hudson, the powerful club posted a 32-9 record. They finished 1-2 in NAIA National Tournament Pool Play, they lost to California Baptist, 3-0 (30-18, 30-18, 30-27), lost to Albertson (Idaho), 3-0 (30-19, 30-16, 30-15), and defeated Cedarville (Ohio), 3-1 (30-23, 24-30, 30-22, 30-27)

**MEN**

**Basketball**
Under coach Tommy Brown, the Flames battled in the rugged SSAC and into National Tournament play for the second straight year. They finished 22-10 and lost in first round of the national tournament to Concordia (Calif.), 77-61

**Soccer**
Under the direction of coach Henry Moyo, the Flames defeated Auburn University Montgomery and claimed the Region XIII for the first time in school history. They were 17-4 and tied (lost penalty kicks) in second round vs Azusa Pacific (Calif.), 1-1 (9-8 PK) in a heart-breaking NAIA National Tournament shootout.

**Tennis**
Coach Tony Cavett directed his men to a 15-5 record. They advanced to Elite Eight of the NAIA for the first time in the history of men’s soccer. They defeated Walsh (Ohio), 7-2; defeated Savannah College of Art & Design (Ga.), 5-3; and lost to Azusa Pacific (Calif.), 5-1 in the national tournament.

**Baseball**
Under first-year coach Mark Brew, the Flames won the NAIA Region and then claimed the NAIA Atlantic South Super Region title for the first time ever. The Flames, with 50 wins, earned a spot in the NAIA College World Series for the second time in Lee’s baseball history.

**Golf**
Coach Jack Souther’s golf teams just get better and better. They are making their fourth straight appearance in the NAIA National Golf Championship. The Flames won seven invitational titles in the fall and spring—a school record.
Lee faculty member Edley Moodley shows his balance of reading Torch on a camel in front of the great pyramids of Egypt.

TORCH TRAVELS - Send us a photo of you and/or a fellow alumnus or alumna reading Torch at an exotic or noteworthy destination. Tell us where you were and what was the occasion.

Send prints to the Lee University Alumni Office, 1120 North Ocoee Street, Cleveland, TN 37311, ATTN: Torch Travels. High resolution digital photos can be e-mailed to torch@leeuniversity.edu.

Enjoying the view from Pike’s Peak with Torch are (l-r) Monica Knight Rogers ’96, Jon Rogers ’96, Dewayne Knight ’73 and Jane McClain Knight ’72. Along with them are “future alumni” Wesley, Susanna and Brigham Rogers.

Elizabeth “Zoe” Reynen ’03, missionary in Spain with the Master’s Commission, recently traveled to Romania to minister in orphanages and to young people living on the streets of Bucharest. She is pictured with the adopted children of two host families in Romania where she made Torch interesting English homework.

Jimmy Harper ’86 grants Lee University colleague William Lamb one last request—to read Torch—before he is “tortured” at Windsor Castle in London.
Gerald Lewis ’90 intently reads his latest issue of Torch in Al Faw Palace in Baghdad, Iraq in a chair given to Saddam Hussein by Anwar Saddat. Gerald is the Commander of 565th Ground Ambulance Division.

Sara Smith Landrum ’72 and Dan Smith ’77 standing in front of the Reformed Church in Debrecen, Hungary where Sara was visiting her missionary brother and his family. Sara made sure he was up to date on the latest happenings at Lee.

Don Walker ’77 took a Torch magazine on a visit to the Neuschwanstein Castle. With Walker (left) are his wife Jackie, daughter Denise Walker Harris ’88 and son-in-law Scott Harris.

David ’76 and Sheila Shely McElhaney ’78 and Linda Sealey McRae ’76 and Herbert McRae ’83 recently vacationed together in Hawaii in March where they were sure not to get Torch too close to Kilauea Caldera at the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park on the Big Island.
Who's Where

1950–1979

Jack ’50 and Claudine Bridges recently celebrated their 54th anniversary at Hilton Head Island, S.C. They live in Boardman, Ohio, where Jack is Spirit-Care representative for the northern Ohio Churches of God. Anyone wishing to correspond with the Bridges can do so by e-mail at jgbridges@sbcglobal.net. ▼

Connie Birmingham St. Clair ’64 retired from teaching elementary school after 36 years. She is enjoying her retirement living in WeWA-hitchka, Fla., while traveling, gardening, and quilting. Connie would also love to hear from former classmates.

Ronald ’71 and Jean Bass Varner ’69 live in Newton Hamilton, Pa., where Ron is principal of Indian Valley High School and Jean is a retired elementary school principal. All three of their daughters are Lee alumni including Tonya, Ashlee (currently a senior) and Amber (a junior).

Holder Named Georgia Teacher of the Year

Melinda Godsey Holder ’76 who teaches at Varnell Elementary School in Dalton, Ga., has received the Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award for the state of Georgia. Melinda has taught in Whitfield County since graduating from Lee. She was presented the award by the Governor of Georgia, Sonny Perdue on Friday May 4 (see photo). A past winner of Teacher of the Year in Whitfield County, Melinda feels this to be one of her greatest honors. “The Lord opened the door for me to teach in Georgia when I graduated from Lee and in my 20 years of teaching it has been a blessing to work with children and to help influence their lives, both spiritually and mentally.”

Melinda is married to Steve Holder ’76, who said, “Melinda has always spent the first part of the morning praying for her children. I can’t remember a day that she did not take time out to call out their names to the Lord.” He went on to say, “I have always told Melinda that she was the greatest teacher in the world. It has just taken Governor Perdue a little time to recognize it.” The Holders live in Cleveland, Tennessee.

1980–1989

Kimberly O’Neal McIntire ’82 have been married for 25 years to her husband, Tom. Kimberly works as secretary at a local elementary school. They have two sons, including Brock who will be graduating from Lee this year.

Russell ’82 and Pam Nail Rosser ’82 have been married for 25 years and have two sons. Both Russ and Pam teach mathematics at North Jefferson Middle School in Kimberly, Al., Russ for 25 years and Pam for 16. The family attends Mt. Olive United Methodist Church and are teachers in the senior high Sunday school class. Pam sings in a bluegrass gospel band along with her sister, Leah Nail Commer. Pam says, “We would love to hear from all of our Lee friends!”

Kim Fisher ’85 completed her doctorate in educational leadership at Trevecca Nazarene University. She is principal of Black Fox Elementary School in Cleveland, Tenn. She is pictured with her son, David, who graduated from high school one week later, and who will be a freshman at Lee this fall. ▼

Dolores Ramirez Douglas ’86 passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, May 15, 2007. Dolores graduated from Lee with a degree in Christian education and returned to teach early childhood education in 2002–2003. She most recently had been teaching at Austin Peay University in Clarksville, Tenn. Dolores...
leaves a husband, Tony, and two children. Dolores had established a scholarship for Hispanic teachers. Donations may be made to this scholarship in her honor.

Cheryl Hastings Crowe ‘86 lives in Hixson, Tenn., with her husband, Ray and their son. Cheryl teaches Spanish at Hixson High School and is director of the character education council.

Carol Johnston Forbes ‘86 has been married to Gene Forbes for nearly 19 years. They have a teenage son and Carol is a stay at home mother. Her husband is a civilian Army contractor in Iraq until December 2007. Carol lives in Swainsboro, Ga., and would love to hear from any Lee University alumni from 1985-86 who have worked in virtually every aspect of the station,” Bob said. He also emphasized the fact that among the 22 employees are six Lee alumni who serve in key operational positions.

J103 can be accessed anytime, anywhere by logging on to www.J103.com.

1990–1999

Douglas Wayne Slocumb ‘92 and Elaine ‘Lainey’ Johnston ‘02 were married on March 10, 2007 at North Cleveland (Tenn.) Church of God where they both attend. Lainey teaches special education teacher at North Lee Elementary and recently received her masters in education from Lincoln Memorial University. Wayne is employed with the Church of God as a graphic designer. He also has been active as a sponsor to Upsilon Xi at Lee University.
Who's Where

Tom Adams ’94 lost his wife, Sandi on October 8, 2006, after 34 years of marriage. His son, Tom, daughter-in-law Rachel and his grandchildren have been a great support. Tom would love to hear from all of his friends. He is a front desk manager with La Quinta Inns in Chattanooga, Tenn.

David Haun ’94 and his wife, Allison, have been married eight years and live just outside Charlotte, N.C. They recently adopted two girls from Taiwan. David works for Gardner Webb University as the director of admissions for the adult degree program, while Allison works at Central Church of God as their web administrator/publication coordinator.

Jessica Beran Juarez ’94 and her husband, Marco, have been married for 10 years and they have three sons. Jessica worked five years as a television producer in Virginia and California before becoming a homemaker. The Juarez’s are now foster parents to two young girls and she volunteers in the community as a Child Advocate with CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates). She also works to recruit and help support Christian foster parents. Jessica would love to hear from old friends at Lee at mynn@danielinvestments.com.

Vivian Muir ’94 lives in Fruita, Md., and has been employed at Atlantic General Hospital in Berlin, Md., for five years. Vivian earned a master’s in Health Care Administration three years ago and is currently the administrative coordinator for the hospital’s Women’s Diagnostic Center. She teaches a health care related course at the local community college, and she serves as president of the Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce and the Office Technology Program Advisory Committee for Wor-Wic Community College.

Rafat Qumsieh ’95 is living in Xenia, Ohio, with his wife of 12 years and they have three daughters. Rafat says, “My oldest is already talking about attending Lee and watching her cousin, Candice Shelton, play this year on the Lady Flames.”

Craig Smith ’96 is living in Georgia after serving two combat tours in Iraq. He is now working in the civil service sector as the Department of the Army Chief of Public Affairs for the Southeast Region to include installations in Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Puerto Rico. He works out of Fort McPherson, Ga., at the Installation Management Command - Southeast. Craig can be contacted at craig.smith1@us.army.mil.

Jayne Taylor ’96 recently released an inspirational book as a tribute to her father who died of cancer in 2005. “He touched many lives with his collection of philosophies which he shared in the form of wise cracks and one-liners,” Jayne said. “At a recent book signing in the Credit Union which he founded, I was treated to a steady stream of people, many of whom I had never met, all sharing stories with me of how my father had touched their lives and inspired them to reach goals they had given up on.” The book is called Maxisms: Strategies for Living From an Unfamiliar Disciple. It is published by Derek Press and is available from Pathway Bookstore and the Web site TheWingsOfAngels.com.

Lynn Chaput ’97 is working at the Smoky Mountain Children’s Home in Sevierville, Tenn.

Flora Izaguirre ’97 has been self-employed for the past five years. The business name is Reliable Business Services and includes accounting and taxes.

Jennifer Gibson Arbogast ’98 has been married for eight years, and she has one daughter. Jennifer is currently working as a financial consultant for two local manufacturing companies in West Monroe, La.

Heather Hopkins Harris ’98 is married to Thomas and they reside in Rock Hill, S.C. The Harris’ recently started a new business called Done Right Construction and Services, Inc. Thomas is a licensed general contractor and they are joint owners in the business.

Tara McLendon Warren ’98 lives in Durham, N.C., with her husband, Gerry, and their year-old daughter, Tara obtained a master’s in Public Health from UNC-Chapel Hill, and is working part-time in the pharmaceutical industry while being a stay-at-home mother.

Nathan Bradfield ’99 moved to Montgomery, Ala., in July 2006 to assume responsibilities of a larger commercial insurance territory. He is also writing on his Web site, Church and State (nathanbradfield.blogspot.com). He and his wife, Stephanie, have two sons. Nathan and Stephanie would love to hear from classmates and friends: www.myspace.com/nathanbradfield or nsbradfield@knology.net.

Tanner ’98 and Marika McFall ’98 welcomed their first child, Ava Grace, this past year. Marika is still teaching high school math. Tanner was recently promoted to the Appellate Division of the Hamilton County Prosecutor’s Office and is active in the local political scene.

The Bradfields
Brandon Larson ’99, and his wife, Chasity Johnson ’01, live in Ringgold, Ga. after moving back to the U.S. from teaching overseas in Slovakia. Brandon teaches 6th grade language arts and Chasity teaches Pre-K in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Matthew Temple ’99 has been a youth pastor in Winchester Va., for the past five years. He is married to Tessie Biazon and they have three children.

2000–2005

Jessica Childers ’00 married Ryan Ashe on July 16, 2006. They live in Greenville, S.C., where Jessica is pursuing a master's degree in administration. Jessica teaches 3rd grade.

Robyn Cole ’00 is living in Plant City, Fla., working as a professional urban planner for the Genesis Group (a consulting firm). The firm is the 2006 Small Business of the Year for the Tampa area.

Stephanie Blackburn Hatfield ’00 is married to Steven and they live in Ashland, Ky. Stephanie is employed at a mental health facility as a family therapist, and she helps her husband manage a contracting company they opened last year. Friends can contact Stephanie at srhatfield@adelphia.net.

Melissa French Haught ’00 lives on the east coast of Florida with her husband, Ben, and their daughter. Melissa is the worship leader at Praise Cathedral Church of God in Melbourne.

Virginia Holmes ’00 is living in Calhoun, Ga. working in a rural medical clinic as a physician assistant. Virginia says, “I am still aspiring to do missions work but waiting on the Lord’s timing. I would love to get in touch with other alumni.”

Shelley Tau Marks ’00 and her husband, Todd, both graduated from Fuller Seminary in 2005 with an M.A. in Intercultural Studies. They are preparing for long-term service in the Middle East.

Jamie Huff ’01 lives in Los Angeles, Calif., where he recently completed the Los Angeles Marathon on Sunday, March 4. He finished the 26.2 miles course in 4 hours, 21 minutes.

Jamie is an employee of Universal Studios Hollywood and a member of the Oasis Christian Center.

Josh ’01 and Johanna Cline Chumley ’01, recently moved back to the Cleveland, Tenn., area. Josh was promoted to director of student services for the University of Phoenix in Chattanooga. Johanna is a stay-at-home mom with their two boys.

Faith Barrett Dixon ’01 is living in Groveport, Ohio, where she recently gave birth to a baby boy, Gideon Blaze Dixon, born on February 28, 2007. Faith is married to Jeffrey Lee Dixon and she teaches first grade.

Kelley Reed Jackson ’01 welcomed daughter, Isabella Blaze Dixon, born on February 17, 2007. Kelley is married to Jeffrey Lee Dixon and they have a two-year old son. They live in Byron, Ga.

Jeff Pitts ’01 is a youth pastor in Zion, Ill., and became a father for the third time.

Sarah Bobcast Sonnleitner ’01 and her husband, Troy, are assistant pastors at Dansville Foursquare Church in Dansville, N.Y. Sarah is the children’s pastor at the church and works for Cornell Cooperative Extension as an after-school site supervisor.

Brandi Bussell ’02 is married to Jordan Paulsen ’02 and they live in Brooklyn, N.Y., where Jordan is a firefighter with the New York Fire Department. Brandi graduated from Brooklyn Law School in June 2006 and serves as general counsel for Times Square Church. They have one son, Mackey Robert, born October 7, 2006.

Grant Myers ’02 is minister at Lovers Lane United Methodist Church in Dallas, Texas.

Kyla Kitzke Stevens ’02 lives with her husband, stepson and daughter in Minot, N.D. She and her husband are associate pastors and young adult group leaders at their local church, Living Waters Family Worship Center. Kyla also enjoys being a full-time wife and mother.

Jeff Norton ’03 recently accepted the pastorate of a church in Hampton, New Hampshire.

Schaunelle Cox ’03 is living in Cleveland, Tenn., where she is attending the Church of God Theological Seminary.

Jeffrey Conn ’80 recently won two awards from the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET). While in Washington D.C., Conn was awarded the Pharmacology–ASPET Award in Experimental Therapeutics, and the other an ASPET-Astellas Award in Translational Pharmacology. This is the first time that a recipient has received both of these awards in the same year. Jeff and his wife, Anita ’81, live in Nashville where Jeff is director of the program in Translational Neuropharmacology and director of the VICB Program in Drug Discovery, which tries to facilitate translation of recent advances in basic science to novel therapeutics. Dr. Conn’s current research focuses on the development of novel treatment strategies for Parkinson’s disease, schizophrenia, and other brain disorders. Dr. Conn has established himself as an international expert on glutamate neuronal functions and pharmacology in the hippocampus, and he has explored therapeutic opportunities for epilepsy, neuroprotection, and anxiety disorders. Dr. Conn serves on several scientific Advisory Boards of multiple pharmaceutical and biotech companies and the Michael J. Fox Foundation. Dr. Conn is currently editor of Molecular Pharmacology.

TORCH • Summer 2007 45
Who's Where

PROFILES IN GIVING
Alumni who set the standard for giving back to their alma mater

Jonathan Morrison

Jonathan Morrison ’94 completed his Lee education and moving back to Illinois in the fall of 1994, he spent time working for an analytical instrument company and then for a friend’s landscaping business while going to Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville for a secondary teaching certificate in chemistry. A job offer came while he was student teaching, a path which led to the northwest suburbs of Chicago to teach science and Elk Grove High School.

Jonathan says, “He clearly answered a fleece I put before Him to let me know the Chicago suburbs was where He wanted me to teach. For the past 10 years, I have had no plans of moving away from my hometown area since returning from finishing my degree at Lee”

During Jonathan’s years at Township High School District 214 he has ...

• developed an integrated science program for freshmen and sophomores focusing on experiential outdoor education, teach biology, physical science, science and society, introduction to Web design, and chemistry.
• been appointed as an academic technology coordinator and the school’s Webmaster for the past seven years.
• completed a master of science degree in curriculum and supervision with a specialization in outdoor teacher education from Northern Illinois University in 2002.
• completed a master of arts degree in educational technology from Azusa Pacific University in Azusa, Calif.
• been named to Who’s Who Among American Teachers in 2003-04 and 2004-05.

Why Jonathan Gives

The two and a half years I spent finishing my undergrad degree were some of the most defining times of my life. I learned a lot about who I was and who I am today from the time I spent living in Hughes and Cross Halls, and then in apartments in Cleveland with guys that I will always treasure as dear friends in Christ. I was also at Lee during the Ellis Hall fire. It was amazing to see the outreach the campus and community made to help those guys that had lost so much in the fire.

The strongest personal connection I had with Lee, and where I grew the most as a person, was in the time I served in Theta Delta Kappa and the experiences of going through the Induction process. I made life-long connections with those guys and the Little Sisters.

I still draw from all those memories as I teach high school teenagers. By God’s grace and mercy I am able to share parts of my life and reach students in positive ways that I wouldn’t normally as a public high school (science) teacher, if I didn’t have all of those experiences to draw from.

It is also those experiences and the work that I see the Lee family doing to continue the vision God has put on Dr. Conn’s heart for Lee. Since I graduated from Lee, many others from my church have attended Lee. I look at giving as a way to help continue that work and vision the Lee family embodies. A simple way to exponentially reach so many more people than I can alone.

I started by just giving enough to help Lee’s percentage of alumni who give and have been able to increase what I give because of God’s provisions with a good job in teaching. My giving is to the ministry Lee represents in the classroom, the dorm, the dining hall, in chapel, in the streets of Cleveland, and especially in the souls of anyone who has a connection to Lee however great or small. We are all touched by what we know Lee to be and my giving, at whatever level, helps me know others will have the opportunity to continue to share in that blessing from God.

It humbles me to know how others before me have given so generously and sacrificially to continue God’s work when I was at Lee. God has blessed my career and I want to make sure I give back in whatever way I can, so those that come now and in the future can have the same, if not better, opportunities to have God work in their lives. God’s ability to use our giving is far greater than anything any of us can do with it on our own.

When we come together, God is there and He will use our offerings to further His Kingdom in ways we could never imagine. I see His works in every issue of Torch I receive and it keeps the fire stirred in my soul to continue supporting the great service that is being done by Lee and my fellow Lee Alumni.”

“I SEE HIS WORKS in every issue of TORCH I receive and it keeps the fire stirred in my soul to continue supporting the great service that is being done by Lee and my fellow Lee Alumni.”

All the glory belongs to Him for what He has given me and allowed me to be able to give back. Additionally, as of the end of April 2007, all of my student loans for undergraduate and graduate work have been paid off. Giving generously to Him (and to Lee) hasn’t kept me from being able to take care of my obligations and meet my daily needs. It’s kind of neat how these moments have coincided with each other.
Matthew Heilmann ’03 is working as a juvenile probation officer for Huron County, Ohio.

Matt Knotts ’03 recently married Rachel Carlino ’03. They met at Lee while playing rugby on the men’s and women’s teams. Matt works as a sales representative for Ryan Homes and Rachel is a personal trainer for Golds Gym.

Brian Shaw ’03 recently moved to Columbus, Ga., after accepting the position of full-time ministry as music minister at Cornerstone Church of God.

Katherine Herder Flanagan ’04 and her husband are living in the Netherlands, where he is working on a Ph.D. in Old Testament, and Katherine is doing private tutoring. Katherine says, “We love it, but look forward to moving back home in three years!”

Aaron Hyden ’04 lives in Cleveland, Tenn., where he owns an import/export company. He travels frequently to China and Mexico and also owns a construction company.

Deborah Tuff ’04 is a television reporter/fill-in anchor at WTVY News 4 in Dothan, Ala. Deborah says, “If it weren’t for the Communications Department teaching me how to be salt and light in my career field, I probably wouldn’t have made it this far! I always wanted to make a difference in people’s lives and I’m able to do that because television reaches so many people!”

Bitni Capps ’05 is living in Virginia Beach, Va., where she is administrative assistant to the vice president of Operation Blessing International.

Jessica Thomas ’05 married Eric Robert Shonebarger on January 20, 2007. The newlyweds are now living in Pinellas Park, Fla., where they are youth directors at Praise Cathedral Church of God.

Lacy Henley ’05 married Landon Lemley in July 2006. Lacy is enjoying her first year of teaching 6th grade at Lake Forest Middle School in Cleveland, Tenn.

Josh Raines ’05 is living in The Plains, Ohio, where he is attending Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Kasi Kicks ’06 is teaching pre-kindergarten in Georgia.

Jory Hire ’06 is an inner-city church planter/missionary in Nashville, Tenn. He currently works with The LIFT Nashville. Jory is also a tentmaker account executive for Central Payment Corporation. He and his wife, Lynne, have three children.

Justin Poole ’06 recently moved to Atlanta, Ga., to begin a job in sales for The Rock-Tenn Company.

Here’s How YOU Can Be in WHO’S WHERE

Name __________________________________________________
Address _________________________________________________
City ____________________________________________________
State ________  Zip ______________  Last Year at Lee ___________
Phone (H) _______________________________________________
Phone (W) _______________________________________________
E-mail Address ___________________________________________
Family (spouse, children, etc.) ______________________________
_______________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________
Occupation ______________________________________________
_______________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________
Brief notes of interest ______________________________________
_______________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________

THREE WAYS TO SEND US YOUR UPDATE

• Mail: Send this completed form to the Lee University Alumni Office, P.O. Box 3450, Cleveland, TN 37320-3450
• Lee’s Web Site: www.leeuniversity.edu. Follow the links to “Alumni and Friends” and click on “Who’s Where Update.”
• E-mail: torch@leeuniversity.edu. Your information goes directly to the Alumni Office.

High resolution digital photos can be e-mailed to torch@leeuniversity.edu or mailed to the above address.
HOMECOMING 2007 HIGHLIGHTS:

Classes!
• Legacy Reunion featuring the class of 1957

Organizations!
• Campus Choir 50th Anniversary
• Clarion reunion
• Pi Kappa Pi 20th Anniversary
• Tau Kappa Omega 10th Anniversary

Athletic Groups!
• Flames Volleyball reunion
• Flames Softball reunion

Events!
• Flames basketball and volleyball
• Homecoming 5K Run
• Music, drama and more!

Watch the Lee University Web site for details and further announcements in the coming months.

Save the Date: November 2-3, 2007

It's not too early to begin planning for . . .

HOMECOMING 2007
NOVEMBER 2-3