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ON THE COVER Jordan Smith performs the finale of NBC’s “The Voice.” Photo by Tyler Golden/NBC.

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Global Perspectives
Focus: Colombia
Torch continues the ongoing series with the first feature on a trip by students to South America. Students visited multiple sites in the beautiful country of Colombia. by Evan Pell

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President Paul Conn

Alumni Honored at Homecoming
Hundreds of alumni returned to Lee for various reunions, including the 50th anniversary for Ladies of Lee and the 25th for Semester in Europe. In addition, the annual Distinguished and Honorary Alumni awards were presented, as well as honorees of each department.

Jordan Smith Takes “The Voice” Title
For the second time in the same year, a Lee alumnus has brought unprecedented fame to his alma mater by impressing judges and voting audiences with his musical talent. Senior Jordan Smith was named this year’s stop winner of NBC’s “The Voice” on December 15.

by Cameron Fisher

Nursing Utilizes Space in Dixon
While they await the arrival of their new building next fall, Lee nursing students stage infant arrivals in their temporary home, a former editing suite in Dixon Center.

by Sara Campbell

There She Is...
The annual Parade of Favorites pageant was held in November and more than a dozen contestants competed for the coveted title of Miss PDF-2015.

by Sabryna Damstra

A Ten Year Cycle
Every ten years Lee goes through a grueling self-assessment accreditation process. Read the journey of how Lee arrived victoriously once again this year.

by Jayson VanHook

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Opening Thoughts from President Paul Conn

As we celebrate this New Year, we think of Janus, the mythical god with two heads, one to look forward and one to look back. It’s what inspired the word “January,” we are told.

This holiday season has been a time of looking back to 2015 and ahead to 2016, and both years put a big smile on my face. We are in the middle of a very good period of Lee University life.

2015 saw some big accomplishments. Just a few weeks ago, in early December, we got the official announcement of our ten-year reaffirmation of accreditation by the Southern Association Commission on Colleges. That’s the big one, and this year we got the best peer review Lee has ever received, a “no recommendations” report that judged our entire university in a very favorable light.

A few days later, just before Christmas, we got another big accreditation “win,” when the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) officially reaffirmed our accreditation on its own ten-year cycle.

And of course 2015 was a big year for athletics, with our official entrance into NCAA Division II.

And a big year for our Department of Business, with the graduation of our first cohort of MBA graduates.

And a big year for popular attention, with the huge national coverage of Jordan Smith on “The Voice” and Clark Beckham on “American Idol.”

So we will have plenty to remember about 2015. But 2016 is just beginning, and it already promises to be -- if the Lord is willing -- an exciting year here at Lee.

Already emerging from the mud of a wet autumn is the new building for the School of Nursing, which we expect to occupy and dedicate for the fall semester.

And at the same time, we will be pulling together finally the massive South Campus project, with the scheduled demolition of thirteen houses in that area to complete that major extension of our campus.

On September 30, the bells will ring for Celebration 2016, which will mark the official end of the “Find Us Faithful” Campaign. That will also be the occasion of marking officially the end of thirty years of my presidency, and that kind of presidential anniversary is not an individual accomplishment at all, but a statement about all the committed and talented women and men who have made those three decades so memorable.

I enjoy the New Year! It’s a time of satisfaction, looking back, and anticipation, looking forward. Especially at a place like Lee, where so many good things are happening. Happy New Year!
Over the last few years, Homecoming at Lee University has had a number of campus-based organizations and events celebrate the milestone of 50 years of existence. Not just Homecoming itself, but also groups such as Upsilon Xi, Lee Singers, Alpha Gamma Chi, and Delta Zeta Tau, and now the Ladies of Lee, have all celebrated their fiftieth anniversaries, hearkening back to an era of campus growth in the early 1960s. Next year, another steadfast group, the ladies of Sigma Nu Sigma, will celebrate 50 years. The Semester in Cambridge, England, program marked its twenty-fifth year while another steadfast group, the ladies of Zeta Tau, and now the Ladies of Lee Singers, Alpha Gamma Chi, and Delta Zeta Tau, have been part of this signature choir for decades. Not just Homecoming events celebrate the milestone of 50 years at Lee University; there have been a number of wonderful events over the last few years, Homecoming being one of those. On my Cambridge trip, my fellow students became my family; in fact, we called ourselves “Cam Fam.” We biked and trained, rode bikes, cabs; experience navigating (and getting lost!) through different cultures and countries; and plan their final travels together, all of which builds a bond between the participating students. 

This annual trip is made up of hand-picked instructors and students who earn 15 credit hours while immersed in the European culture. While Cambridge serves as the base for the students’ 12-week study abroad, only five weeks of the trip are spent in the city while another five are spent touring Ireland and the United Kingdom. The trip then culminates with a two-week opportunity for the participants to independently travel around continental Europe, with a route and companions of their own choosing. Each group of students who receives the honor to participate in this program learns to live life together. They spend countless hours together on buses, boats, planes, trains, bikes, cabs; experience navigating (and getting lost!) through different cultures and countries; and plan their final travels together, all of which builds a bond between the students like no other Lee experience can provide.

On my Cambridge trip, my fellow students became my family; in fact, we called ourselves “Cam Fam.” We biked Jesus Green together through hail, wind, and rain; ate fish and chips every Thursday at Wetherspoon; and went punting down the Cam River. Each year when the spring semester arrives, more students pack their large suitcases and leave the comfort of their dorms to experience a whole new world full of malt vinegar, cheeky accents, and cobblestone streets, older than America itself. In the back of my mind, I want to remind them to “look the other way before crossing the street” and “sign the back of the picture frame!” Every spring, students still have the opportunity to have the “Lee Experience” in a totally new way, and make their own “Cam Fam.”

So when these Cambridge students, from the very first trip to the most recent trip, came together at Homecoming, it truly felt as though I were coming home—home to the people with whom I experienced some of the best, most enriching times of my life, as well as home to the larger Cambridge family. For those who gathered together that Saturday in November and shared a cup of English tea, we all had the same thing to celebrate—Cambridge.
Tanya Mazzolini graduated from Lee in 1984 with an accounting major, and she is the daughter of the late Martin and Betty Baldree. She is currently the vice president of corporate accounting at Life Care Centers of America, having begun there in 1985 as a staff accountant. She received the Danette Henry Servant Leadership Award from Life Care in 2014. A long-time member of the Lee University Business Advisory Council, Tanya mentors Lee accounting students through internships and is frequently on campus as a guest panelist or speaker. She is the current chair of the United Way of Bradley County’s Board of Directors. Tanya was the 2012 ambassador to Peru for Operation Christmas County’s Board of Directors. Tanya was the 2012 president of the Lee University Business Advisory Council, having been involved in studies of neurotransmitter receptors and their roles in regulating brain function in circuits involved in psychiatric and neurological disorders. In 2000, Dr. Conn assumed the position of senior director and head of the Department of Neuroscience at Merck and Company in West Point, Pa. In addition to directing the drug discovery efforts of his department in multiple CNS therapeutic areas, he was responsible for overseeing the global efforts of the company in discovery of new therapeutic agents for treatment of schizophrenia and movement disorders. In 2003, he became the founding director of the VCND at Vanderbilt. By 2011, the VCND had grown to approximately 100 full-time scientists and under his leadership raised over $100 million in external research funding. A small sampling of the numerous awards he has earned includes: the NARSAD Essel Distinguished Investigator Award, the ASPET-Astellas Award in Translational Pharmacology, the Pharmacia, and the 2008 Lee University Distinguished Alumnus of the Year. 

Steve Hartline is a 2000 graduate of Lee, majoring in telecommunications. His interest in radio started at the age of 15 with play-by-play of local baseball games. While at Lee, Hartline continued to develop his radio career at the local WCLE (Mix 104.1). Since 2003, he has become a familiar personality in the Southeast Tennessee area with his “Mix Morning Show!” In 2008, he bought the station and launched a second station, Talk 101.3 “The Buzz,” in 2012. Hartline’s company also publishes three magazines a year (Southeast Tennessee Woman, Southeast Tennessee High School Football Preview, and Southeast Tennessee Winter Sports Preview) and puts on live events attended by thousands of people. Steve has given back to Lee by providing internships for students, hiring some of its brightest graduates, and returning to share his experience as a guest lecturer.

D. Dr. Jeffrey Conn is the Lee E. Limbird professor of pharmacology at Vanderbilt University and director of the Vanderbilt Center for Neuroscience Drug Discovery. He graduated from Lee in 1981 with degrees in psychology and biology. In 1986, he received a Ph.D. in pharmacology from Vanderbilt and pursued postdoctoral studies at Yale University. Dr. Conn joined the faculty of the Department of Pharmacology at Emory University in 1988 where he established himself as a leader in studies of neurotransmitter receptors and their roles in regulating brain function in circuits involved in psychiatric and neurological disorders. In 2000, Dr. Conn assumed the position of senior director and head of the Department of Neuroscience at Merck and Company in West Point, Pa. In addition to directing the drug discovery efforts of his department in multiple CNS therapeutic areas, he was responsible for overseeing the global efforts of the company in discovery of new therapeutic agents for treatment of schizophrenia and movement disorders. In 2003, he became the founding director of the VCND at Vanderbilt. By 2011, the VCND had grown to approximately 100 full-time scientists and under his leadership raised over $100 million in external research funding. A small sampling of the numerous awards he has earned includes: the NARSAD Essel Distinguished Investigator Award, the ASPET-Astellas Award in Translational Pharmacology, the Pharmacia, and the 2008 Lee University Distinguished Alumnus of the Year.

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Margaret Gaines graduated from the Lee College Academy (High School Division) in 1949 and from Lee Junior College in 1951. Having heard a veteran missionary Josephine Planter during a BTS missions service, Gaines opened her heart to the Arab people. When the octogenarian Planter invited the eighteen-year-old Gaines to join her as a missionary in Tunisia, the Church of God declined to send a single young woman to North Africa. Undaunted, Margaret made arrangements to go alone. She arrived in Tunisia in April 1952, and began her own mission a year later. She was officially appointed as a missionary in 1956. In 1964, Margaret was appointed to Jerusalem, Jordan, which was claimed three years later by Israel during the Six-Day War. Among her many ministries was establishing a church and school in the village of Aboud, where she pastored and taught until 1992. While serving in Aboud, she was awarded her degree from Lee in biblical studies in 1982 and from the Church of God School of Theology in 1987. For health reasons, she relocated from Lee in biblical studies in 1982 and from the Church of God until 1992. While serving in Aboud, she was awarded her degree in general surgery in 2000 and returned for his Master of Music degree in trumpet performance, completing in 2010.

Brian loved teaching middle school students and fully invested his life in the education of his students. While at Ocoee Middle, he had a partnership with the Walker Valley High School and was involved in their marching band program. He also worked as the orchestra director and youth orchestra director at Westmore Church of God.

Margaret Gaines

Barnett Named Honorary Alumnus of the Year

Lee University has named Dr. Robert Barnett as its 2015 Honorary Alumnus of the Year. "Dr. Barnett is a gifted teacher. He makes history come alive for his students, and has made that discipline a popular one at Lee for almost twenty years," said Dr. Paul Conn, Lee president. Barnett, named a Distinguished Professor of History in 2012, has also been the recipient of Lee's Excellence in Advising Award, Excellence in Teaching Award, and the Janet Rahamut Award.

Prior to his arrival at Lee, Barnett was the chair of the Department of History and the director of the International Studies Division at Tennessee Wesleyan College. He was also a member of the Russian Bureau of the Tennessee Humanities Council, and project evaluator of the Tennessee Humanities Council. He earned his doctorate, master’s, and bachelor’s degrees from Texas Tech University.

Specializing in the Russian Revolution, Barnett also teaches courses on Modern Europe, Tudor and Stuart England, and various seminars in history. He has been published in American Passages, American National Biography, Encyclopedia of Historians and Historical Writing, and Nineteenth Century Prose, Volume XIX.

In addition to teaching, he sponsors Alpha Kappa Eta, Lee’s chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the National History Honor Society, and serves as a national mentor for Phi Alpha Theta. He is the founder of the Southeast Tennessee Historical Conference. Also, he is a founder and director of the annual Global Perspectives trip to England and Scotland.

Barnett is a native of Berkeley, California, and enjoys architecture, literature, music, art, and travel. He has five children.
By Cameron Fisher

Just a few months after Lee University graduate Clark Beckham took second place on the popular talent search American Idol, Lee senior Jordan Smith captivated the audience, judges, and ultimately the globe on NBC’s The Voice—another popular talent contest with a national following.

On Tuesday night, December 15, Smith was named The Voice 2015 champion. This year’s judges consisted of four vocalists from various music genres: Adam Levine, Blake Shelton, Gwen Stefani, and Pharrell Williams. Once accepted, the contestants choose who they prefer to be their coach and mentor through the remainder of their time on the show.

This year’s judges consisted of four vocalists from various music genres: Adam Levine, Blake Shelton, Gwen Stefani, and Pharrell Williams. Once accepted, the contestants choose who they prefer to be their coach and mentor through the remainder of their time on the show.

At his live audition, all four judges were shocked when Smith appeared from the darkness after belting out the tune, “Chandelier.” Expecting a female performer because of Smith’s high-pitched, feminine-sounding voice, Stefani stated, “That’s the freakiest thing I have ever experienced in my life,” followed by “And that’s what makes it super cool,” from Williams. Stefani followed up her comment by saying, “Yeah, you do not look like your voice.” Levine, whom Smith chose as his coach that night stated, “You are the most important person ever to appear on this show.”

Jordan Smith’s success has been measured in part by the consistent downloads and views of his performances on both iTunes and YouTube. In mid-November, Smith’s version of “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” topped the iTunes charts at No. 1, beating out such notable artists as Adele and Justin Bieber. Since then, it has garnered over 6 million views, far more than any Voice performances on both iTunes and YouTube. In mid-November, Smith’s version of “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” topped the iTunes charts at No. 1, beating out such notable artists as Adele and Justin Bieber. Since then, it has garnered over 6 million views, far more than any Voice performance on the video-viewing site. On December 7, he performed “Somebody to Love,” a tune originally performed by the rock group Queen. Thirty minutes following the show, the song had skyrocketed on iTunes, again beating the world-renowned singer Adele for the No. 1 spot. Levine said following the performance, “I don’t need to say anything at all, because that’s one of the best things I’ve ever seen in my entire life!”

Smith, originally from Harlan, Kentucky, is a senior music business major. While at Lee, he has been a member of Lee Singers since his freshman year and regularly served on the praise and worship team for Lee chapel services. He took this semester off to compete on the show. “We are all very proud of Jordan’s success,” said Dr. Brad Moffett, director of Lee Singers and one of Jordan’s mentors. “It is remarkable that Jordan’s performance of ‘Great Is Thy Faithfulness’ has touched the world in such a time of turmoil. The timing of this performance demonstrated the hand of God on Jordan’s life. I believe that this particular performance had such a powerful response because of Jordan’s consistency on and off the stage.”

Early on in his journey with the show, Jordan said, “Not only do I learn something every day from superstars like Adam (Levine) and Rihanna, but also I have the chance to pour into the other contestants and work with them through this crazy process to create memorable performances.”

Lee University has had an amazing opportunity to showcase student musical talent this year! This is the kind of positive public attention we could never have orchestrated, but with the combination of Clark Beckham on American Idol and Jordan Smith on The Voice—both all the way to the finals; both in the same year—it certainly says something really positive about Lee students. We attract many bright young students, and then we prepare them to step up and deliver when their opportunity comes. I don’t know any university anywhere that does it any better.”

–President Paul Conn

PHOTO BY: TYLER GOLDEN/NBC
On Sunday, October 25 at 5 p.m., a group of 30 Lee University students officially ended the world’s longest ultimate Frisbee game after 90 hours of play, setting a new world record.

The effort took place to raise money for the 7-16 Freedom Fund of Chattanooga, which helps the families of the victims of the July 16 Chattanooga shooting.

Throughout the four-day event, they raised over $10,000, according to Derek Murray, senior business administration major at Lee. Murray organized the event along with fellow senior, Caleb Wade.

As difficult as it was at times, and as much sleep Caleb and I lost during the planning process, it was worth every second,” said Murray. “It was awesome to see these students from all over campus come together and work hard for a cause they believed in. We know there were numerous fundraisers before us, but we still wanted to do our part.”

The first 84 hours of the game were played on Lee’s Souther Field, and the last six were played in AT&T Field in Chattanooga. Two teams of 15 players played the full 90 hours, substituting in and out of the game, as well as in and out of ice baths. According to Murray, the players set up tents and made their own version of an “Olympic Village” around the fields.

For anyone still wanting to donate, or for more information about Hucks for Heroes, contact Murray at derek@remedyflies.com.
NURSING Finds a Temporary Home in Dixon Center
By Sara Campbell

The presence of the nursing program on the Lee University campus is very apparent as nursing students wearing scrubs in school colors are becoming a permanent fixture on campus. However, the nursing program is probably felt greatest in the Dixon Center—the program’s temporary home until the new School of Nursing opens next year. In addition to the Conn Center, the Dixon Center hosts large numbers of Lee students every Tuesday and Thursday for chapel services. After the rush of chapel comes and goes, the entryway and halls of Dixon continue to flow with a stream of nursing students.

Until the Communications and Arts Building opened in August 2014, the north wing of Dixon Center was home for Communications students. Now, temporary lab space for nursing students can be found on the first and second floors of Dixon. Two rooms on the first floor consist of hospital beds, mannequins, tables, and equipment that allow students to learn, practice, and become competent in multiple nursing skills. Upstairs, in the area that previously housed studios and a video-editing suite, students fill the health assessment lab for “Natalie” who is in labor and ready to give birth.

Non-nursing departments new to Dixon this year, report that they hear all kinds of things throughout the day that one does not typically hear in other buildings on campus. These sounds often relate to the mannequins, who can be programmed to speak or cry out. Additionally, hallway conversations focus on topics that some might not want to hear! Everyone in the building is now becoming accustomed to those noises, sounds, and conversations. May the presence of nursing continue to reverberate across campus!

—Dr. Sara Campbell is dean of the Lee University School of Nursing.

ANNUAL MISSIONS WEEK Benefits Liberian Orphanage

Lee University hosted its annual “Dee Lavender Missions Week” Oct. 26–30 to raise funds for the Phebe Grey Orphanage in Liberia, Africa. According to Lee’s Campus Pastor Jimmy Harper, the facility is lacking in resources to meet the demand for shelter in the area. The orphanage is in need of sustainable energy sources, which would provide electricity for a school library.

“I was privileged to visit this facility over the summer in preparation for Missions Week,” said Harper. “It is a place that is filled with love and concern for the children, but we can help them tremendously by providing some much needed support for the school and for the personal needs of the children.”

Chapel services held during Missions Week featured Dr. Tim Hill, director of Church of God World Missions, and Reverend Richard Baker of Serving Orphans Worldwide.

Missions Week T-shirts were sold, with all profits and donations going directly to the orphanage.

Since 1991, Missions Week has been carried out in honor of Lee University student Dee Lavender, who died on a summer missions trip to Panama just before her twenty-first birthday. Missions Week projects have been in place for more than 20 years, and a week devoted to missions has been part of Lee programming since the 1940s.
SARMIENTO CROWNED
Miss Parade of Favorites 2015
By Sabryna Damstra

Lee University’s 2015 presentation of Parade of Favorites married a collection of music, movement, song, and service with a spunky, yet elegant twist on the 1950s old Hollywood theaters. The Scholarship production, now in its fifty-third year, took place on Saturday, November 14 in the Conn Center. Crossover’s Christina Sarmiento took center stage as the winner of Miss Parade of Favorites 2015. Inspired by her own love for classic film and theater, Director Victoria Brock, senior public relations major from Atlanta, sought to replicate the timeless iconography of the 1950s sophistication and glamour. Each year, the production team strives to produce an event that emulates diversity, excellence, and most importantly, service. With representatives from nine Greek Clubs, the African Student Association, and Crossover, the female contestants, along with their escorts, offered a production graced with the benefits of hard work and dedication. Representatives were scored in six categories, including academics and involvement, time and attendance interview, evening wear, and impromptu questions regarding the specified service platform that the top five contestants answered. Despite the show’s seemingly effortless presentation, the production required a three-month commitment from contestants. Choreographer James Vassell worked with both the contestants and escorts two hours per week to ensure the production was picture perfect. As service is one of the outstanding features of Lee’s educational curriculum, Parade of Favorites actively seeks to emulate those values. This year, the production team and contestants chose to support the Salvation Army—an international organization focused on giving people the gospel of Jesus Christ while providing for their basic human needs.

Miss Congeniality, award-winner Julia Quails of Zeta Chi Lambda, said: “Working with the Salvation Army was such an awesome experience. I showed up, ready to serve and pour into the lives of other people, but the people ended up pouring into my life instead. My perspective on service was totally changed after volunteering with this organization.”

Fourth runner up, Hayley Bishop of Pi Kappa Phi said: “Being able to participate in POF was definitely one of my favorite Lee experiences. I had the opportunity to get to know many different people from all parts of the campus—people I probably wouldn’t have met otherwise.”

While the hard work and dedication from team members and contestants clearly paid off, Parade of Favorites 2015 will long be remembered for its focused determination to foster meaningful relationships that encourage service and excellence both on and off the stage.

—Sabryna Damstra is a senior from Grandville, Michigan, majoring in English education with a TESOL minor.

National Science Foundation Awards $600,000 GRANT for Lee STEM Students

The National Science Foundation recently awarded Lee University a $600,000 grant that will provide scholarships and educational opportunities to Lee students majoring in science and mathematics. The award was made through the federal agency’s Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (S-STEM) program. This grant will fund a new Lee program which will be called “iMASS Scholars.”

The iMASS Scholars program is for upcoming second-year students in the sciences and mathematics who are both academically talented and financially qualified. Scholars will receive a total of $20,000 in scholarships over three years. The goal of the program is to increase the number of exceptional students who earn a bachelor’s degree in biology, chemistry, and mathematics. These students will be prepared to enter competitive graduate programs or employment in STEM-related fields. Five cohorts of scholars will be supported over the course of the grant program.

The new Lee program will also offer intensive faculty and peer mentoring and direct exposure to research opportunities and internships. Students will work with regional research institutions and STEM-related industries in collaborative teams of math and science students.

The iMASS Scholars program was designed and is directed by Lee University University faculty: Dr. Sherry Kasper, associate professor of biology; Dr. Blayne Carroll, professor of mathematics; and Dr. Sarah Schlosser, assistant professor of chemistry. The NSF is an independent federal agency created by the National Science Foundation Act of 1950. Its aim is to promote and advance scientific progress in the United States. The Foundation is also committed to ensuring the nation’s supply of scientists, engineers, and science educators.

PETERSON Releases Book

Lee University’s Dr. Brian Neil Peterson recently released his third book, John’s Use of Ezekiel: Understanding the Unique Perspective of the Fourth Gospel. The inspiration of the book stemmed from Peterson’s dissertation and observations he made on the parallels between the Gospel of John and the Book of Ezekiel.

According to the Fortress Press summary statement, Peterson offers a remarkable explanation for some of the most unusual features of the fourth Gospel, including the exalted language of the Johannine prologue; the metaphor of Jesus as Word; the imagery of light and darkness; of glory and “tabernacling”; the role—and rejection—of prophecy; the early placement of Jesus’ “cleansing” of the Temple and His relation to it; the emphasis on “signs” confirming Jesus’ identity; and the prominence of Jesus’ “I Am” sayings.

Peterson joined the Lee faculty in 2011 as an assistant professor in the Theology Department of the School of Religion. The book is available for purchase at the Lee University bookstore or Amazon.com.

—Ashley Alvarez

SENATE NAMES ROBINSON to Curriculum Commission

The Tennessee Senate recently appointed Lee University’s Dr. Jason Robinson to serve on the State Textbook and Instructional Materials Quality Commission. Robinson works alongside 19 other members to create a recommended list of textbooks for the State Board of Education to approve. Once the list is finalized, it is then sent to school districts for them to select which textbooks they aspire to use for their students.

“I am honored to have been appointed by our elected officials in Nashville to the Commission,” said Robinson, “I know that it will be a great opportunity to work side by side with educational leaders in Tennessee.”

State Representative Kevin Brooks stated, “It is always a thrill when someone from Cleveland, Tennessee, a fellow Lee University alumnus, and a local state educator is selected to serve in Nashville. Dr. Robinson will represent Cleveland, Bradley County, Lee University, and the values we all represent with great skill.”

Robinson serves as an assistant professor of education at Lee University in the Helen DeVos College of Education.

—Hannah Vickery

LEE UNIVERSITY TORCH 17
the reaffirmation of accreditation is one of the most important events that colleges and universities must address. While there are various types of accrediting agencies, the most important accreditation for a university comes from its regional accrediting body. Regional accreditors accredit the entire institution, and Lee University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, most commonly referred to as SACSCOC.

Every ten years, institutions must go through a process of reaffirmation with SACSCOC, which is often referred to as a process of reaccreditation. This process involves a self-study, where members of the institution engage in a collective analysis of the institution against the SACSCOC standards, followed by a series of reviews by peers external to the institution. The process takes over two years to complete and contains two main overlapping phases: (1) the preparation of a Compliance Certification and (2) the development of a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). The QEP, implemented over a five-year period, must be a focused course of action that improves student learning at the institution.

Both the Compliance Certification and the QEP are reviewed by teams of peer-reviewers in Atlanta. The peer-review teams are comprised of higher education administrators and faculty at similarly situated SACSCOC member institutions. The peer-reviews take place in two phases. In the first review, an off-site evaluation team gathers information to complete and contains two main overlapping phases: (1) the preparation of a Compliance Certification and (2) the development of a Quality Enhancement Plan. In the Compliance Certification phase, institutions prepare a report of the institution’s main campus and a sample of its off-campus instructional sites. Both the off-site and on-site evaluation teams commonly include a president and other officers.

Lee University’s reaffirmation process started in June 2013, when President Conn, Dr. Jayson VanHook, Dr. Debbie Murray, Dr. Carolyn Dirksen, and Chris Conine attended the SACSCOC Leadership Orientation Meeting in Atlanta.

Upon returning from the meeting, the SACSCOC Leadership Team was formed and tasked with overseeing the reaffirmation process and developing the Compliance Certification. Members of the leadership team included: Dr. Jayson VanHook (chair), Dr. Debbie Murray, Dr. Carolyn Dirksen, Chris Conine, Dr. Mike Hayes, Dr. Matthew Melton, Dr. Linda Thompson, Dr. Stacey Tucker, and Dr. Josh Black. This team spent a year preparing responses to each standard, working with sub-teams as necessary, and submitted the Compliance Certification to SACSCOC on September 10, 2014. It totaled 238 pages, contained links to over 2,500 questions from the Compliance Certification. While the SACSCOC Leadership Team was hard at work documenting compliance with the Principles of Accreditation, the rest of the institution was focused on identifying and developing a Quality Enhancement Plan. Under the direction of Dr. Carolyn Dirksen, Lee University selected Integrative Learning as the QEP topic, and the task force began working to focus the topic into a manageable plan. In January 2015, the faculty and administration voted on the final QEP, entitled “Integrative Learning: Pathways to Faith and Vocation.” This QEP describes the plan in the following way: “The QEP will contribute to the excellent work of the institution’s leadership in an exit interview. Lee University received an overwhelmingly positive response from the On-Site Review Committee with no recommendations.
Post by Student Prompts RAMPED-UP SECURITY

A n anonymous post on the social media platform Yik Yak, which appeared during the second weekend in October, caused a safety concern among students and employees alike. The implied threat to the Lee campus brought an increased security presence, which eventually prompted the student who posted the threat to come forward. The admission was made to a member of the senior leadership team after a chapel service.

"As is our responsibility, we put this person in touch with the Cleveland Police Department, and they have taken him into custody for further questioning," stated President Conn following the arrest. "We continue to cooperate fully with CPD (Cleveland Police Department) and other authorities in their investigation."

"We understand why people would feel uneasy about posts like this," Conn stated at the time of the incident. "It is part of the chaotic and often unsettling world we live in. However, based on all available information in consultation with authorities, we do not feel it is necessary to suspend normal activity at this time. We encourage everyone to continue to engage in the life of the campus as usual."

The student, an 18 year-old from Nigeria, has been suspended and faces the possibility of prison time and/or being deported back to Nigeria. His attorney, Scott Kanavos said, "He's a sweet, naive boy who, just like so many young men, did a stupid thing, not understanding fully what the repercussions were."

Symphonic Band Tours Eastern Europe

The Lee University Symphonic Band completed a tour of Eastern Europe this past summer, traveling throughout Austria, Croatia, Hungary, and Serbia. The band played at concerts and religious services and was exposed to different kinds of art, culture, and historical landmarks.

In Budapest, the band performed at the Kodály György Music School, joined by the school's youth symphony to play "America" from West Side Story. According to Band Director Bailey, the concert led to the formation of a relationship between Lee University and Crescendo, a Christian music organization in Budapest. It is now possible for Lee music professors, undergraduate, and graduate music majors to take part in the Crescendo Summer Institute. During their time abroad, students took the opportunity to explore Budapest and Vienna. They experienced downtown city markets, St. Matthew's Cathedral, Parliament, Tributes to Mozart, Beethoven, Bartok, and more.

Cross Country MAKING EARLY MARK in NCAA

The Lee men's cross country team is quickly becoming one of the nation's top programs in NCAA Division II. Under the leadership of Coach Caleb Morgan, the Flames claimed a pair of first-place finishes heading into conference, region, and national runs.

Eligible for championship honors for the first time as members of the Gulf South Conference, Lee wasted no time in claiming the title. Coach Morgan was named the Men's GSC Coach of the Year. The Flames placed six runners in the top 20 with Harold Smith leading the way with a second-place finish in the 8k race. Seth Eagleson was fourth, and both earned spots on the All-GSC squad.

The Flames advanced to the NCAA Division II South Region, placing second and qualifying for the D2 NCAA National in Joplin, Mo. Eagleson placed fourth and Smith sixth in the talented field.

Coach Morgan hoped for a top 25 or 26 finish in the Nationals, and that is exactly where they finished, but ahead of the St. Leo (Fla.) team whom they finished behind in the South Region. Smith was Lee's best in this event and Eagleson followed.

In other cross country news, Coach Morgan announced that Christian Noble, scheduled to take part in the Footlocker Top 40 Nationals, picked the Flames over many other offers, signing scholarship papers to run for Lee next year.

The women's cross country team placed second in the Gulf South Conference tournament. Audrey Smith placed fifth, and Jessica Childers placed tenth. In the South Region competition, the Lady Flames just missed qualifying for the Nationals after a fourth-place finish. Childers posted a ninth-place mark and Smith was eleventh.
Lady Flames Serve Big in Annual Volley for a Cure

In front of a loud, pink-filled Walker Arena crowd, the Lee University volleyball team defeated West Georgia, 3-1 on November 6 in the annual Volley for a Cure match. The Lady Flames hosted the eighth annual event to benefit the Mary Ellen Locher Foundation. The culmination of the evening took place between sets two and three when the annual scholarship was presented to a student whose family has been affected by breast cancer.

“People have been such great support from the community again this year,” said Head Coach Andrea Hudson. “When we present the scholarship, it really hits home how special this whole event is. Last year we raised $23,000, and I would estimate we’ve raised about $130,000 since we began the event.”

Volley for a Cure has turned into much more than simply a volleyball match. The team hosted a special luncheon on the Thursday prior to the match to honor breast cancer survivors and their friends and family. This year Sonya Jones, runner-up on NBC’s Biggest Loser, was the special guest speaker. Fans in attendance were also able to bid on great items during the silent auction, held in the lobby of Walker Arena throughout the evening.

Sartori Claims GSC Honor

Lee freshman outside hitter Silvia Sartori was named to the GSC Second Team and was recognized as the top freshman in the league, as voted on by the coaches, following the 2015 season.

Sartori, a native of Belgrade, Serbia, led the team with 366 kills and 249 digs. Sartori also registered 28 service aces and 42 blocks, showcasing her versatility as both a front and back line player.

Men’s Basketball Begins CONFERENCE PLAY

led by veteran Head Coach Tommy Brown, the Lee men’s basketball team officially opened Gulf South Conference play on the first weekend of December as they traveled to Memphis to tangle with Christian Brothers and Union University. The Flames are off to a 3-6 start after playing just two league home games before the Christmas break. Their victories have come against Lane College, Coastal Georgia and West Florida.

Newcomers CJ Reese and Keevin Tyus have led the Flames. Junior Jervon Johnson and senior Elgrin Wilson have returned to add stability to the Flames’ lineup.

When the Flames return in January following a needed holiday break, they will be very busy on the home hardwood in the first of the year. Brown’s squad will play a stretch of 9 of 11 games at home from January 9-February 13. All Bradley County (Cleveland) residents with a valid I.D. can attend Lee home events for free this season as the Lee Athletic Department continues its year-long celebration of being official members of NCAA Division II.
After wasting no time in directing the Lee women’s soccer to an 11-5-4 (10-2 GSC) record, an appearance in the Gulf South Conference (GSC) tournament championship game, then on to an at-large berth in the NCAA Division II National Championships, the title of interim head coach was removed, and Chris Hennessey was officially named head coach of the Lee women’s team.

Hennessey replaces former Head Coach Matt Yelton, who resigned his position this past summer. He served as Yelton’s assistant for two seasons and was immediately named the interim coach.

President Conn said: “Chris did a wonderful job with the team this year. I believe he has earned the right to lead this team on a permanent basis, and it gave me a lot of pleasure to announce that to him and his team. I believe he can be a truly great soccer coach, and I want him to do that right here at Lee University.”

Hennessey was an outstanding defender for the Lee University men’s soccer program from 2006 to 2009. Before returning to the Lee campus as an assistant, he worked as an instructor at All-Pro Soccer and as the director of coaching for Central Maine United, a youth soccer program.

Further adding to his credibility, Hennessey was named the GSC Coach of the Year and Laura Thacker, Summer Lanter, Meagan Newman, and Kinsey Cichowitz were named first team All-GSC. Thacker and Lanter earned second-team spots on the All-South Region squad.

The outcome in the game of soccer can change in one second. The 2015 Lee men’s soccer team can testify to that fact. The Flames, under the leadership of Paul Furey, appeared steamrolling toward a Gulf South Conference (GSC) regular-season title with five straight conference wins and a tie in the books going into the final seconds of a game they were hosting against Christian Brothers University. Just before the game-ending buzzer sounded, a CBU player headed his shot into the back of the goal to give the Bucs the 2-1 win over the stunned Flames.

Lee rebounded two days later with a win against Union University, but Shorter University beat the Flames with a winning goal in overtime. Another tough loss (3-2) followed to West Florida in the opening round of the GSC tournament, and the Flames settled for a final-season record of 11-5-2.

Junior David Perez was named the GSC Player of the Year after scoring 17 goals and dishing off five assists (39 points). Goalkeeper Tom Halsall joined Perez on the All-GSC first team while Jon Finlay and Gabe Franco were selected for the second team.
for Bogotá, the country’s capital, all the students left their families reluctantly.

One thing that the group was grateful for, however, was the drastic climate change from Barranquilla, whose daily high rarely dipped below ninety degrees Fahrenheit, to Bogotá, a mountain city with temperatures averaging in the fifties. While in Bogotá, the group toured the capital and the surrounding area, and then took a tram to the top of Monserrate, the site of a seventeenth-century sanctuary devoted to “El Señor Caído.” Afterwards, the group drove over to the nearby town of Cota, where they spent the day working in the same orphanage, which Lee University’s Provisión de Amor project supported last fall. The team handed out gifts to the girls staying in the orphanage and also visited a local school in Cota, both of which are sponsored by the Church of God. The group’s day at the orphanage was a singularly blessed experience—they were moved by the love and gratitude the girls showed them, making goodbyes very difficult.

When their time in Bogotá came to an end, the students traveled to Medellín, the second-largest city in Colombia, where they took a bus tour and learned all about the Antioquia Department, one of Colombia’s most notable cultural hubs. Medellín—once stunted by its central role in Pablo Escobar’s drug operations in the ‘80s—has demonstrated remarkable growth in the last 30 years, and students thoroughly enjoyed visiting what is now considered one of the most modernized cities in Colombia.

At long last, a trip to Tayrona National Park and a hike to Cabo San Juan—rated as one of the most beautiful beaches in the world—put a cap on the truly exceptional cross-cultural experience. After spending the night in hammocks, lulled to sleep by the sea’s cool breeze, the students traveled back to Barranquilla, where their host families threw them a fantastic fiesta of Colombian food and dancing, to send them off, Colombian style.

The value of the Department of Language and Literature’s trips to Colombia cannot be overstated. This was the fifth group to travel to Colombia with Dr. Alexander Steffanell, and the fifth group to see that popular perception of Colombia—a supposed third-world country whose development is hindered by blood-thirsty drug lords—is entirely inaccurate. These cross-cultural trips to Colombia play an integral part in redefining the country in the minds of United States citizens. Furthermore, these trips strengthen relationships between Lee University and organizations like the orphanage in Cota, the Church of God, and the Presbyterian Church in Colombia, among others. Numerous alumni from Lee’s Spanish program, in fact, have gone on to teach and serve in the institutions that they first interacted with on their Colombian cross-cultural trips.

The only risk in visiting Colombia is wanting to stay.

—Evan Pell is a senior Spanish and English major.

“COLOMBIA? ISN’T THAT A DANGEROUS COUNTRY?”

Most of the ten students who went on the Colombia cross-cultural trip this past summer vividly remember this being their parents’ and friends’ reaction when they first brought up the idea of traveling to Colombia. After all, due to its ongoing civil conflict and its role in the international drug trade during the 1980s, Colombia’s reputation among the Americas isn’t exactly pristine.

What the students—all either majors or minors in Spanish—found upon their arrival, however, was a land that wholly defied their expectations of this South American country. The students left from the Atlanta airport at the beginning of June, and spent the next month traveling around a country whose geographical features varied widely, such as the sandy white beaches of the Caribbean Coast to the snow-capped Andes Mountains.

The group spent the first two days of the trip in Cartagena, Colombia, a popular beach town on the country’s northern coast. Here, they toured several sites, including the Colonial-era wall surrounding the city and the house of Colombia’s own Nobel Prize winning author—Gabriel García Márquez. Also, they explored the nearby Islas del Rosario islands by boat, stopping occasionally to swim in the crystal clear water or enjoy a refreshing drink from a coconut—a must-do for any foreigner visiting the Caribbean.

After Cartagena, the group packed up and took the hour-long bus ride to Barranquilla, the capital of the Atlántico Department, where they stayed for most of the trip, taking classes in both Colombian literature and culture. While in Barranquilla, the students’ experience was truly cross-cultural: they spent the two weeks in Barranquilla living in the homes of Colombian families, eating meals, going to church, and immersing themselves in an entirely Spanish-speaking environment. It was during their stay in Barranquilla, where many students came to realize what it was that made Colombia, Colombia—it was the people. The Barranquilleros, as they are called, consider themselves to be some of the happiest people in the world, and with good reason. Many of the students remember that in Barranquilla they experienced hospitality unlike any they’d known before. When it came time to board the plane...
Kenneth Prater '56 passed away on February 28, 2015, in Cleveland, TN, where he lived with his wife, Florence, of 58 years. He is survived by Florence, two chil-
dren, two grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Ben Holmes '61 has pastored several churches and taught in both private and public schools since graduating from Lee. He holds both B.A. and M.A. degrees in education. Ben retired from the Sacramento (CA) City School District in 2004, but has taught as a substitute since then. He has been married to Cheri since November 1983, and has one step-daughter. Together, they have 11 grandchildren. Ben says, "Lee made a tremendous impact on my life, and I treasure memories made there."

Patricia Boyle '64 lives in Mogadore, OH, where she has been a realtor for 40 years. She has owned her own business—Pat Boyle Real-
ty—for the last 21 years.

Ted Bowman '65 lives in Winter Haven, FL, where he is owner of JC Publishers LLC, helping new authors get published. He has four grown children. His website is www.jcpublishers.net.

Marie Sharp Mayo '68 is retired from CSSRS, Social Security Administration, with 37 years of service. She is mar-
rried to Ken and they live in Tallahas-
see, FL. Marie says, "Blessings to the
students and alumni of Lee College;
blessings to the students and facul-
ties of churches and institutions who
affirm the beliefs of the Bible."

Alec Rowlands ’68 lives in Edmond, WA, with his wife, Rita. Alec says, "I was a PK (preacher’s kid) in South Africa when Paul Henson came from the States and stayed in our home for six months, holding meetings in our region. When he heard that our family could not afford to send me to college, he made some calls and arranged for my admission to Lee College and a scholarship from the Missions Department. Without these two miracles, my life would have been significantly different than it is. I am forever grateful."

Dale Bain ’69 is a retired U.S. Army colonel who is presently serving on the Board of Education in Elmore County, AL.

James and Lola Brewer ’69 are re-
tired in Ocala, FL, but working part time as connection pastors at Living Waters Worship Center.

Hugh Hodges ’69 is a retired
juvenile officer for the Cleveland (TN) Police Department and former director of the Bradley County Ju-
vilene Court. He has been retired 15 years and is a substitute teacher—a profession in which he has been certified for 46 years.

John Oxford ’69 lives in Sevier-
town, TN, with his wife, Beth, of 48 years. John was a high school band and choral director for 17 years and has been an elementary school guidance counselor for 26 years in Sevierville. He plans to retire next year. The Oxfords have five children and three grandchildren.

Barbara Montgomery Smith ’69 lives in Cleveland, TN, and taught in the Bradley County School System for 32 years. Barbara says, "Lee has been an influence for a lifetime."

Herb ’70 and Carol McCormick Anderson ’70 live in Madison, GA, where Carol is a retired school counselor and co-owns a dance studio. She and Herb enjoy spending

time with their grandchildren and traveling.

Jennifer West Dunn ’70 is a retired
elementary school teacher living in
Dublin, OH.

Paul Jones ’71 and his wife, Heidi, live in Covington, GA, where they are retired. Paul served as a pastor 19 years, as well as a teacher, principal, school superintendent, and state curriculum director.

Larry ‘72 and Mary Johnson Benz ’74 are now retired and living in
Punta Gorda, FL. Mary was a ca-
reer educator and pastor’s wife; she enjoys working in her local church in teaching foundational studies for new members, as well as swimming and gardening.

Ken ’75 and Peggy Benoche Hamons ’75 moved to Cleveland, TN, in October 2014, to be near their children and grandchildren. Peggy works at Lee University’s Early Learning Center as the as-
sistant director. Ken works as an assistant manager for Open Arms Corp. Peggy says, “We love the Cleveland area and being near our family.”

Lloyd Looney ’77 and his wife, Conrie, are residents of Dacula, GA, where Lloyd is self-employed as a licensed professional counselor and licensed marriage and family thera-
ist in northeast Atlanta.

Glenda Braxton Crain ’78 lives in Mt. Pleasant, SC, with her husband, James. Glenda is a retired public school music teacher.

Frankie Brannen Durham ’78 is married to Rick, and they have three children and five grandchildren. Frankie teaches fifth-grade math and science at Blythe Bower Ele-
centric in Cleveland, TN.

Randy ’79 and Priscilla Kay Myers Cousineau ’77 live in Newaygo, MI, where Priscilla is a surgical nurse at Gerber Hospital in Fremont, while Ran-
dy is working as a substance abuse therapist for Arbor Circle in Newaygo.

Tim Grant ’79 and his wife, Sandra, have been married 37 years. They have two children and nine grandchil-
dren. They live and pastor in Baton Rouge, LA, where Tim is involved in state policy and the state legislature. He served as a volunteer state senate chaplain for three years, and he does contract work for a nonprofit organi-
zation called Louisiana Family Fo-
rum, which is a Family Policy Council associated with Focus on the Family in Colorado. He is also an elected official in his local parish (county).

Terry Kent ’79 is associate pastor at Victory Worship Center in Staunton,
VA. He has traveled nationally with the Church of God as an evangelist and was a member of the Crestmen Quar-
tet, when the group was nominated for a Grammy for the song, “Go Jonah.”

Sheena Parritt Newman ’79 lives in
Cleveland, TN, with her husband, Den-
nis. Sheena is supervisor of elementary education for Bradley County Schools.

Melody Morgan Goodwin ’80 is employed at the Church of God Inter-
national Offices in Cleveland, TN, as executive secretary to the director of Business and Records. She and her husband, Darrell, have one daughter.

Mickey Jett ’80 spent more than 25 years in the military, retiring as a lieutenant colonel, with the last 18 years as an active duty Army chaplain. He left the Army to plant a church in Nashville, AL—Green-
Way Church. Mickey’s education includes a M.Div., a M.S. in coun-
seling, and a D.Min. He and his
wife, Nan, have four children.

Sharon Phillips Fouracre ’81 is married to Henry, and they live in
Ocala, FL, where Sharon is a prac-
ticing CPA. Sharon says, "We get to serve, as God has placed us in a Spirit-filled church. What little free time we have is taken up with ballroom dancing, but we still find the opportunities to go on several cruises throughout the year." She has four grown children.

Kent ’81 and Renay Jones Hawkins ’81 live in Marietta, GA, and have two children and three grandchildren. They recently celebrated their 35th anniversary with a trip to Japan, China, and South Korea.

Debra Calhoux Hurst ’82 lives in Port St. John, FL, with three of her four children. She also has grandchildren.
Vickie Chamberlin Ford '83 works as a school counselor at an international Christian school in Sichuan, China. Vickie says, “The exciting part is that I work with Stephanie Rommen ’14, a recent Lee graduate . . . I really enjoyed my days at Lee. I had wonderful friends who are permanently in my heart!” Stephanie says, “It’s a blessing to live in such a wonderful place.”

James ’83 and Martha Hughes ’83 live in Michigan, where James was a pastor for 24 years. He presently serves as a clinical chaplain for outpatient mental health patients at the John D. Dingell VA Medical Center in Detroit.

Kim Smith ’83 has been teaching early childhood education (Pre K) in Dayton, Ohio, for the last 20 years. Kim says, “I am very thankful for my Lee education and experiences while attending there. It was a very happy time in my life!”

Teresa Duncan Johnson ’84 recently retired and moved back to the Augusta, GA, area. She loves to travel, cruise, visit historical sites, and stay in touch with friends. Teresa says, “I finished my degree in 2011 in psychology with an emphasis in Applied Behavior Analysis, motivated by my youngest son who has autism and is now 23.”

Doris Montieth Housley ’85 has autism and is now 23.” She is now living in Copperhill, TN, with her four sons, her four children, and their website is www.lovefeet.org.

They have five grandchildren and attend the McCasvilles Church of God where she is a Sunday school teacher. Doris says, “Life is good…I love being a nana, and God is blessing me daily.”

Dorothy Barnhill Lamb ’85 works with the Messianic Jewish Bible Institute headquarters in Eulaess, TX, a ministry that equips leaders who will establish Messianic Jewish congregations in Jewish communities worldwide.

Jim ’86 and Diana Chambers ’86 live in Evening Shade, AR, where Jim is CEO of the Institute for Organizational Leadership, an educational consulting firm, and serves on the doctoral faculty in higher education and the University of Phoenix School of Advanced Studies.

Maloy Strickland ’86 lives in Shreveport, LA, with his wife, Eunice, and their two children. Maloy recently accepted a high school choral position, which began in August 2015.

Gay Sample Greene ’87 is a retired music director, formerly at St. Mary Catholic Church in Athens, TN, and is enjoying her six grandchildren.

Trena Willann Braswell Curt- "stic ’87, passed away in 2011. Trena was 52 and retired second-grade teacher with the DeKalb County Board of Education at Smithville Elementary School for 24 years. She is survived by her husband of 33 years, William Freddy Curtis ’86, her four sons, and two grandchildren.

Ron Haynes ’87 and his wife, Rhonda, are church-planting missionaries working in Bolivia among the Aymara—a first-people group living in the Andes region, 13,000 feet above sea level. Ron says, “Mary is an animist who worships mother earth, Pachyma- ma, and father/son. Mary has never heard of Jesus.” They have four children and their website is www.lovefeet.org.

Denise Winstead Hodges ’87 lives in Pickens, SC, with her husband, Jonathan. Denise teaches U.S. History at Pickens High School where she is also department chair. She holds a master’s degree in education and is National Board Certified in social studies. The Hodges have four adopted children, as well as two other children they helped raise. Jonathan pastors Pelzer Church of God. Denise says, “We feed approximately 1,800 families each month with a food ministry in our church and seven satellite locations, as well as sending about 4,000–5,000 pounds of beans and rice to Guatemala each month.”

Henry Thomas ’87 lives in Mobile, AL, where he serves as a chaplain at Providence Hospital. He and his wife, Kathy, have one son.

Tina Taylor Pows ’88 has been married for 26 years. She and her husband, Michael, pastor Middle River Assembly of God in Maryland. They have three sons.

Wendell Smith ’88 pastors Faith Temple Church of God in Wauchula, FL, where he has been for 12 years. The church also oversees Cutting Edge Ministries Food Center, feeding 350–400 families a week.

Pete Hanlin ’89 lives in Kickory Creek, TX, with his wife, Debbie. Pete recently became chair of the newly formed Department of Film and Digital Media at Baylor University, where he has been on faculty since 2004.

Andy Noles ’99 lives in Rome, GA, where he attends North Rome Church of God. He holds a master’s degree in education and has taught 25 years at Fairmont Elementary School in Gordon County.

Kathy Hawkins O’Neal ’89 lives in Rock Springs, GA, where her husband is the pastor of Rock Springs Baptist Church. Kathy teaches at Oakwood Christian Academy in Chickamauga, GA. They have three children.

Ray Phillips ’89 is lead pastor at Stratford Heights Church of God, Middletown, Ohio.

Tony Sutherland ’89 has been worship leader and children’s worship leader and children’s ministry leader. Since 2001. He has conducted worship leadership workshops and seminars throughout the United States, Germany, Ukraine, and the Philippines.

Darrell ’90 and Libby ‘87 are a full-time ministry. Darrell holds a master’s degree in organizational leadership and is working in corporate worship gatherings at the Campuses of Mount Paran North Church of God at Marietta and Canton, Georgia.” Scott lives in Kennesaw, GA.

Angela Bobo Irwin ’95 recently moved from Cleveland, TN, to Calhoun, GA, to be near her husband’s business—Calhoun Farmers Agency. She continues to teach at Hopewell Elementary in Cleveland, and at Cleveland State Community College as an adjunct professor. Angela says, “I am now over 40 and living life as I please in God’s will! I am loving it!”

Lance ’95 and Christina Hatcher Giannone ’95 live in Minot, ND, where Lance is the wing chaplain at Minot AFB. Lance says, “It is an amazing thing to see and watch what God is doing in our military families!”

Chris ’93 and Sherry Windham Hansen ’92 live in Robinson, TX, and they have four children. Chris recently became chair of the board of Church of God World Missions, where she has been on faculty since 2004.

Scott Bennett ’94, ’97M, recently graduated with a Doctor of Worship Studies degree from The Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies in Orange Park, FL. The title of his thesis “Implementing a Training Program to Increase Congregational Participation in Corporate Worship Gatherings at the Campuses of Mount Paran North Church of God at Marietta and Canton, Georgia.” Scott lives in Kennesaw, GA.

Leslie Norris Durham ’96 lives in Cleveland, TN, where she is working with Church of God World Missions. She has been employed with Church of God International Offices for 19 years.

Max Thompson ’96 and his wife, Debra, are career missionaries with Church of God World Missions, working in Liberia, West Africa. They have five children and six grandchildren.

Robbie Slobuck ’97 is living in Dalton, GA, overseeing the Boys & Girls Clubs serving Chattooga, Gordon, Murray, and Whitfield Counties. He is also serving at Crosspointe Church in Dalton.

Milly Pagan Medina ’98 lives in Cleveland, TN, with her husband, Ruben. Milly is senior secre- tary for the School of Ministry coordinator at the Church of God Division of Education. Milly says, “I’m excited to work in a department that helps to train and equip lay church leaders... There’s no doubt in my mind that my Christian Education degree from Lee helped me to understand those who are called into the ministry as leaders in different areas.”

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Paige Smith Rapson ’98 and her husband, David, work in full-time ministry. Paige holds a master’s degree in educational leadership and is working toward a Ph.D. in special education. She works for OneHope as their education and training program manager.

Shannon Kelly ’00 lives in South Lake Park in Lanning, Chi- na, where she has adopted a son. His name is Ryken Hao Kelly.
Lee everywhere I go.”

Zach Meredith ’01
Zach is a licensed realtor in Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland. Zach and his wife, Jennifer, are expecting their first child, Izzy, in January 2016. Zach has been in real estate for 15 years. Zach and his wife, Jennifer, are looking forward to starting a family together.

Lori Dailey Gilreath ’01
Lori lives in Grange, GA, where she is a manager at Ingles. Lori and her husband, Aaron, have three children. Lori and Aaron are looking forward to starting a family together.

Jennifer Truskow-Ayres ’07
Jennifer is a high school English teacher and has been teaching for 15 years. Jennifer and her husband, Aaron, are looking forward to starting a family together.

Diana Schleuss ’12
Diana is a licensed mental health counselor. Diana and her husband, Tyler, are looking forward to starting a family together.

Tyler Brinson ’08 and Diana Schleuss ’12
Tyler and Diana are looking forward to starting a family together.

Halfway Dedicated.

Dana Ayers ’01
Dana is a licensed clinical social worker. Dana and her husband, Aaron, have three children. Dana and Aaron are looking forward to starting a family together.

Joel ’04 and Christa Gossnell Barnes ’03
Joel and Christa are looking forward to starting a family together.

Zach and Ashley Buechner
Zach and Ashley are looking forward to starting a family together.

Michael Land ’08
Michael is a teaching artist at Trinity Bible College in Ellendale, ND. Michael and his wife, Dana, are looking forward to starting a family together.

Kyle ’10 and Rebecca Davis Trent ’12
Kyle and Rebecca are looking forward to starting a family together.

Themb Mooy ’11
Themb is a Creative Cinema producer at Columbia College in Chicago and recently attended the 68th Festival de Cannes.

Courtney Pippenger ’11
Courtney is a sixth grade ELA teacher at Chillhowee Middle School.

Lindsey Tunnel ’11
Lindsey is currently serving as a regional volunteer manager for Operation Christmas Child, a division of Samaritan’s Purse, in Charlotte, NC.

Jessie VanderWip, ’11, graduated from Midwestern University in Glendale, AZ, with a Master of Medical Science in physician assistant studies. She has also passed her board exams and is a certified PA at All Family Care PC in the West Valley of Phoenix. Jessie says, “My ultimate goal is to spread the gospel in underserved countries by way of medicine, so the skills I continue to develop in family medicine will be preparation for the mission field.”

Carrie Weems ’11
Carrie is employed by Hamblen County Schools as a special education teacher. She also teaches a Sunday school class for adults with disabilities at First Baptist Church of Morristown, TN.
Emmanuel Okenye ’11 founded Child Scholars in 2013 to help meet educational needs in his hometown of Ikorodu, Nigeria. The vision of Child Scholars is “to tap into the vast indigenous talent pools in the developing world to solve local problems.” Their mission is “to help children achieve their God-given potential through education.” Emmanuel says, “We will offer innovative and sustainable educational solutions that actualize unique abilities endowed to each child and nurture these gifts in the overall betterment of the child’s self and his or her community.” Emmanuel hopes to buy a school building for 500 students, sponsor students to go to other schools, and start a pen pal program. Emmanuel is currently a medical student at Lincoln Memorial University. Learn more at childscholars.org.

Brice ’12 and Brittany Black Burkharter ’12 live in South Pittsburgh, TN, where Brittany is pursuing licensure as a licensed professional counselor and is currently working as a therapist at Mountain Valley Mental Health Center.

John ’12M, and Leia Duncan ’05M, live in Waco, TX, where John is pursuing a Ph.D. in New Testament at Baylor University. He successfully passed his preliminary examinations in the spring of 2015 and is preparing to write a dissertation on rhetorical strategies in the speeches in Acts. He has recently published peer-reviewed articles in Perspectives in Religious Studies and New Testament Studies.

Brandon Lancaster ’12 lives in Nashville, TN, where he is a member of the band, LANco. The group recently signed with the Sony Music Nashville record label, one of the biggest in the industry, with such clients as Garth Brooks, Kenny Chesney, and Carrie Underwood.

Evan ’12 and Melyssa Powell ’12 live in Cleveland, TN, where Evan is a school counselor at Dalton (Ga.) Middle School. Melyssa is a third-grade teacher at Mayfield Elementary in Cleveland.

Taylor Goddard Taylor ’12 is married and living in San Diego, CA with her husband. Taylor took off from teaching last year to pursue a master’s degree in learning, design, and technology from the University of Georgia. Taylor says, “My four-year adventure at Lee turned out to be some of the best years of my life so far! I am so thankful for my wonderful Christian education and the people I met there!”

Joe Evans ’13 recently received a M.Ed. through the Teaching American History Grant at Lee. He is currently working at the STEM School of Chattanooga teaching both world and U.S. history.

Rebecca Devereaux Lee ’13 earned a Master of Science in marriage and family therapy from the University of Alabama last May and is in the process of opening a private practice in Birmingham, Alabama.

Jordan ’13 and Kayla Napier Dingess ’09 currently work at New River Ranch Children’s Home in Beckley, WV. Kayla is ranch counselor and in charge of all new intakes. Jordan is the activity coordinator and a transporter. They live on the 266 acre ranch, where Jordan also oversees the camp side of the property. They have two daughters. They enjoy working with the Family Worship Center in Beckley.

Michael Sterns ’13 is enrolled at Princeton Theological Seminary and has plans to go into pastoral ministry in the New Jersey area following his graduation next spring.

Rick Dorr ’14 is senior pastor of Stallion Springs Community Church in Tehachapi, CA. He has been pastoring for 38 years and has been a senior pastor of eight churches.

Molly Mann ’15 moved home to Nashville where she works in communications and sales at a graphic design firm. Molly says, “I’ve loved every second of it... I am thankful (to) Lee for teaching me the proper and purposeful uses for journalism, social media, public relations, and advertising, so I am now equipped and still learning about my job and areas surrounding it.”

Katy Perkins ’15 is working in Atlanta, GA, for First & Main—a company that designs and manages senior living communities. Katy holds a project management position that oversees preopening activities for senior living communities.

This year more than 2,500 Lee alumni attended alumni events hosted around the country. The 27 events ranged from overnight hikes to prospective-student recruitment parties, and everything in between.

In 2016 if you would like to host an alumni event in your home, place of business, or at an exciting local venue please contact the alumni office at alumni@leeuniversity.edu. The helpful and experienced Alumni Office staff will work with you to organize and market the event to Lee alumni in your area. In most cases a university representative will be available to attend.

If you would like to propose an alumni event, please contact the Alumni Office at alumni@leeuniversity.edu or call (423) 614-8316. Allow at least 2 months before your proposed event.
Hi, sweetie. How are finals going? 😊

Hey Dad. Stressed but great. 😳

That’s my girl! Hang in there. You can do it!!!

Think I can come back to Lee next semester? I understand if I can’t.

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