Mount Up With Wings

Glenda Weinert

Evaline Echols, Professor and Business Department Chair, has touched the lives of numerous students at Lee University for over twenty years. She is now stepping down as Chair of the Business Department, but will continue to teach.

Evaline started her career at Lee University by serving as administrative assistant to four different presidents (1957 to 1984). Upon completion of her Master’s Degree at the University of Tennessee, and her PhD at Louisiana State University, she continued her commitment to her students and Lee University by joining the faculty as professor and Chair of the Business Department.

It was through my accounting studies at Lee that I first met Evaline. I always knew that I would attend Lee, not only because it is an institution in the Church of God, but also an institution that is close to my family’s heart. I am one of many, many people whose lives and careers have been positively impacted by Evaline Echols’ dedication to the Lord and to her students. I have been privileged to serve together with Evaline on the Business Advisory Council. Over the years, I have watched with admiration the many accomplishments that she has either supported or spearheaded. I am honored to call Evaline my friend- she will be sincerely missed in her role as Chair. I truly hope that she is able to stay at Lee for years to come, and continue to share her commitment with future students who pass through its doors.

“Mount Up With Wings” Evaline! You are an inspiration to us all! I’m so glad we are friends, and I wish you continued success- you are loved!

Reflections from a Former Business Student and BAC Chair

Barry Ray

It has been my pleasure to know Dr. Evaline Echols for many years, but very well over the last ten years or so. I was a student at Lee from 1976-1981 while she worked in the President’s office. Although I did not know her well then, she always was a bright light at the college. Her smile was consistent even though she was going through some difficult times.

After I graduated in 1981 and had been in the workforce for a few years, I was asked to join the Business Department Business Advisory Council (BAC). It was during those years that I really got to know Dr. Echols and see her zeal and enthusiasm for Lee University, particularly the Business Department. For seven or eight years as the chair of the BAC, Dr. Echols and I met on a regular basis to plan the council meetings. We discussed what was going on in the department and she shared about new faculty members, the growth in the department, and always about the wonderful students with which she had the opportunity to work. At every BAC meeting, she gave an update on the department and we could always see the little beam in her eye as she reported on all the wonderful things that were continually happening in the department.

As a student over twenty years ago, it is sometimes unbelievable now to compare the Business Department education then to what is available in the Department now. I know that much of this positive change is due to the constant and encouraging hand of leadership that Dr. Echols provided along with the fine faculty.

It is my pleasure and honor to call her my friend.
When Dr. Don Rowe left after serving Lee University for 20 years, I remember thinking, “Wow! He sure has been here a long time.” Now I’ve been asked to reflect on my 20-year history with Dr. Evaline Echols. It’s very difficult to reflect on 20 years in a 125-word article; nonetheless, I shall attempt.

Uncertainty is not too strong a word to use when I heard the news that Evaline Echols would be my new boss. You must understand that Dr. Don Rowe was a hero for me. How could I have any better working relationship with someone so close to the “dark side” of administration—remember she worked directly for several university presidents! I was a staunch faculty member and advocate for the oppressed faculty!

I believe that real friends are better measured by tears rather than laughter. Dr. Echols is a person who not only laughs with you but she has the uncanny ability to know when and how to cry with you. Over these 20 years we have laughed together, we’ve cried together, and we’ve toiled together.

When I was made her supervisor, she was genuinely happy for me without a trace of envy. I went over to the “dark side” of administration that she left 20 years before! Honestly, I can say that our relationship hasn’t changed very much. We still laugh together, cry together, and toil together.

A Switch in Roles...

Dr. Dewayne Thompson

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This page contains several articles and updates. Here is a structured representation of the content:

**Phi Beta Lambda Update**

*Edie Cooper, President*

Twenty Lee students went to the PBL state competition in Gatlinburg the weekend of February 20-21. Lee took home eleven first-place winners, seven second-place winners, and four third-place winners. Four Lee students were granted state offices for the 2004-2005 year. We are planning fundraisers so that we can attend the National Competition in Denver Colorado this July.

**FMA Update**

*Dr. John Zietlow, Sponsor*

The FMA has grown to almost 30 members and appreciates the hard work of its new officers: Lou Seekircher, President; J.W. Church, Vice-President of Marketing & Membership; Bonnie Maples, Treasurer; Bilguun (“BB”) Boldbaatar, Vice-President of External Development; Munkhjin Batbayar, Vice-President of Information Management & Secretary; and Dan Schroder, Chaplain. The FMA is planning its leadership development trip to the Financial Management Association’s Student Leaders Conference in Chicago, in late March. Guest speakers so far have included Mr. Alan Smith, President and C.O.O., First Citizens Bank (Cleveland); Mr. Andy Anderson, Director of Lee’s Career Exploration Center; Mr. Frank Burke, CEO and part owner, Chattanooga Lookouts; Mr. Eric Schwarzentuber, Exec. V.P., Bank of America (Knoxville); and Ms. Debbie Gorman, Cash Management Officer, First Tennessee Bank (Knoxville). The FMA is a national organization headquartered in Tampa, FL.

**On Eagles Wings**

*Barbie Buckner*

“**They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.**” When I think about Dr. Echols testimony and God faithfulness, I see how she waits on the Lord and allows him to renew her strength. “**They shall mount up with wings as eagles.**” Taking risks and bold steps like grad school isn’t easy but she did. She’s an inspiration as a Godly woman that I greatly admire. “**They shall run and not grow weary.**” She has truly run with opportunities set before her. I’ve become increasingly aware of her teaching, writing, and mentoring. I’ve grown to admire, appreciate, and respect her standards for excellence from the expectation of “business professional” dress to the level of expectation our students should meet. “**They shall walk and not faint.**” Her desire and love for teaching continues as she seeks to always make Lee U the best it can be. I wait with anticipation for what is before her. *Isaiah 40:31* — Maybe it’s her love for eagles, or it’s her high standards, but mostly I think it’s her desire to help everyone that she meets. Dr. Echols, thanks for making a difference in so many lives, thanks for making a difference in mine!

**A Teacher and a Friend**

*Dawn Andrews*

Dr. Echols has been to me not only a teacher and the Business Department Chair, but also a friend. During my junior year, Dr. Echols and I started a tradition that has continued to the present. Once or twice every semester, she would take the time out of her busy schedule to meet me and another business major at Cracker Barrel. This started out as a way for us to get to know her a little better because we liked her in class and blossomed into a beautiful learning experience. Those times of sharing a meal included many topics, ranging from memories and funny stories from her tenure here at Lee to lots of encouragement and a multitude of wise advice that is applicable not only in the workplace but as a Christian. The fact that she would take the time not once, but many times, to sit with us and share a meal, meant that she not only cared about our scholastic progress but our personal progress as well. Now, even though I am out of college and working, I still meet with Dr. Echol’s at Cracker Barrel to garner her wisdom… and that to me is invaluable.

**Alumni Update**

Christina Keys (ACC Aug ’03)  
Decosimo, Chattanooga, TN  
Joshua Spence (BADS May ’03)  
Client Relations Associate  
Vanguard Mutual Funds, Charlotte, NC  
Nathan La Londe (CIS Dec ’02)  
PIMS - Project Information Mgmt. System  
Systems Engineer  
Omega P.S., Houston, TX  
Amy Hill (ACC May ’02)  
Staff Accountant Facility Financial Services  
Life Care Centers of America, Cleveland, TN  
Sarah Philips, CPA (ACC & BADS May ’02)  
Doeren, Mayhew, Troy, MI  
Dana Ayers (BADS May ’01)  
Staff Assistant Domestic Policy Council  
The White House, Washington, DC  

**Business Graduate selected for Blackstone Fellowship**

*A National Training Program for Future Leaders in Law*

Matt Sharp, BADS May 2003, was recently selected to the Blackstone Fellowship. Matt is the first person from Vanderbilt Law School to be accepted. The fellowship is a nine week leadership development program sponsored by the Alliance Defense Fund with an overall goal to train Christian law students to take an active role in defending and furthering Christian interest in America.

80 first year law students from all over the country are selected through a rigorous application process. The program involves spending the first two weeks in Phoenix where the participants will attend lectures, discussions, etc. to further their legal training in the area of law & religion. Topics will include religious freedom, sanctity of life, and family values. The next six weeks are dedicated to an actual internship where the participants will be connected with a law firm or lawyer who is actively litigating religious freedom issues. Each participant will get hands-on experience in defending Christian rights and interest. The last week of the program will be back in Phoenix to wrap-up and reflect on the experience. Congratulations, Matt. May God bless this endeavor.
A New Faculty Perspective

Dr. John Zietlow

Someone has said “you never get a second chance to make a great first impression,” and Dr. Echols certainly made a great first impression on me. I contacted her about a possible position at Lee several years ago, and she took the initiative to follow up by phone. I remember thinking that she communicated very well, and represented both the Business Department and Lee University very professionally. When I first came to Lee and met with her, I had this impression reinforced. I have watched her consistency, dedication, and perseverance in action as she has guided the Business Department through these past two years. Despite the obstacles she has faced during this time, she has maintained a positive attitude and lived out a strong faith in God. She has weathered the stress of being an administrator and faculty while continually working hard to make the Business Department a department of excellence.

You Are the Best...

Frank Walker

I am in my tenth year at Lee. Before coming to Lee I worked at several jobs and for several supervisors. I can honestly say that Evaline is the best supervisor in all the work experiences I have had. She is fair and compassionate yet at the same time challenging and demanding. She always gives one the “benefit of the doubt” in less than clear situations. She shows genuine concern for all with whom she comes into contact.

Students Reflect on Dr. Echols’ Nurturing

An Inspiration

Cameron Kist

Dr. Echols has been an inspiration to members of Lee University for many years, but more recently became an inspiration to me. I was introduced to Dr. Echols this past summer when I was assigned to work as one of her peer leaders for a freshmen Gateway class. Her genuine, caring nature was immediately evident, as she had already begun planning our class Christmas party that August! Although this is just one small example of how sincerely she cares for her students, it has been an example I have remembered throughout the semester. She is always filled with a soft, radiant smile and an encouraging word. Dr. Echols truly reflects Christ through her sweet spirit, kind actions, and unwavering faith.

Dear Dr. Echols...

Melissa Welborn

You are an amazing role model to me personally. I remember taking your Business Communications class during my freshman year, and hearing a few of your stories regarding your personal experiences in both the realm of business and of life. Those stories, combined with the lessons I learned from you along the way, have left an imprint upon my life that will be there forever.

Your impact upon the student body here at Lee, as the Chairperson of the Department of Business, is unparalleled. You are probably unaware of the many students here at Lee that you have touched personally with your honesty, leadership, and compassion. The Business Department is a direct reflection of the excellence and grace with which you live your life. Thank you for being such a blessing.

The Lord Bless You...

Bart Norton

Dr. Echols is a professor that goes out of her way to make a student feel as if he or she can do well at anything. She has a substantial amount of leadership qualities which is why she has been chair of the Business Department for 20 years. Being at Lee has been wonderful and Dr. E is one of the great teachers I’ve met. She’s shown the love of Christ by how she starts off class with a sincere devotion and prayer. She is a person that at times I look at as part of my family and I am honored to speak of such a highly regarded Christian woman here at Lee. She is here to change lives not just by teaching but by sharing the gift God has placed within her heart. Good luck with all things that are to come your way, Dr. Echols. May the Lord bless you and keep you and make His face to shine upon you.