

THE MAGAZINE OF LEE UNIVERSITY

# TORCH

FALL 2016





*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

## MAILING ADDRESS

1120 N. Ocoee St., Cleveland, TN 37311

WEBSITE [www.leeuniversity.edu](http://www.leeuniversity.edu)EMAIL [torch@leeuniversity.edu](mailto:torch@leeuniversity.edu)PHONE 1-800-LEE-9930 or  
423-614-8316

## PRESIDENT Paul Conn

EDITOR Cameron Fisher

SPORTS EDITOR George Starr

GRAPHIC DESIGNER Grant Fisher

COPY EDITOR Nellie Keasling

## CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Sara Campbell	Marisa Gilbert
Rodney Cannon	Kendra Gray
Karen Chambless	James Spencer
Brian Conn	George Starr
Paul Conn	Mava Wilson
Cameron Fisher	

## PHOTOGRAPHY CREDITS

Angela Barrett	George Starr
Zack Camp	Randi Vasquez
Cameron Fisher	Carrie Workman
James Mears	

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Lee University Alumni Office,  
P.O. Box 3450, 1120 North Ocoee Street,  
Cleveland, Tenn. 37320-3450.

**ON THE COVER:** Friends and family attending the funeral of Lee board chairman Gary Sharp release colored balloons in his honor.

**PHOTO AT RIGHT:** Intricate detail is shown in the stairwell of the new School of Nursing

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## A Nursing Masterpiece

After 50 years of dreaming, a nursing program with a permanent on-campus building is now reality. But, this is no ordinary academic setting. Come see for yourself in this photo montage.

by Sara Campbell

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## Tribute to an Exemplary Alum

Gary Sharp was not just an alumnus who was faithful to his alma mater, but he also exemplified what going beyond the call really looks like. Read a tribute to the fallen board chairman.

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## New Profs on the Block

Every fall brings a set of fresh faces to light up the teaching ranks. This year a full third of the class of fifteen beefs up the nursing faculty.

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## For Whom the Bell Tolls

Marty Smith '89 helped ring the bell on the New York Stock Exchange to signal the public offering of Quorum Health. Read how he has risen in the ranks of healthcare.

by Cameron Fisher

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## Global Perspectives: South America

A group of students fulfilled their Global Perspective credits by experiencing both Uruguay and Argentina, two vastly different South American neighbors.

by Mava Wilson

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## OPENING THOUGHTS

from

## PRESIDENT PAUL CONN



The sudden death of Gary Sharp, who was known to thousands of friends as one of Lee's most enthusiastic boosters, provides an occasion to recognize and thank the many other Lee alums who give their time and energy to make this a better university.

Gary came to Lee in 1965 from the tiny Tennessee hometown of Stinking Creek. At Lee, he met and married Joyce Fithian, from Michigan. As they had children and created a life together, the Sharp family always had time for their alma mater. Gary and Joyce always stayed in touch with Lee, visited the campus, and participated in its activities. His involvement led to his appointment to the Lee University Board of Directors in 1994, and his fellow trustees elected him to be chairman of the Board for the past six years.

As I have reflected on all that Gary did for Lee, it has been a reminder that there are so many others who give time and energy each year to move the university forward, not from salaried professional positions, but in unpaid volunteer roles, in which every hour they spend is a sacrificial gift to Lee. There is no way to count all the "pro bono" days Gary Sharp gave to us, and as I have struggled to accept the loss of this good friend, I have a renewed gratitude in my heart for all the many others who, like him, serve on our boards and committees, promote and manage our special events, and go out of their way to spread the word about Lee to others.

The members of the Board of Directors lead the list, of course. These trustees receive no compensation and are rarely even acknowledged. But year after year, they pay a big price in personal time and effort to serve Lee. Succeeding Gary as chairman is Dennis Livingston, for example, who from his home in Charlotte is always ready to take time from his own life to do the many things required of a board chair. There are other Board leaders like Byron Medlin, who lives 330 miles away in Dyersburg, Tennessee, but who cheerfully makes that five-hour drive to Cleveland, three times a year for our Board meetings. Or, like Pat Carroll, a businesswoman from Ft. Myers, Florida, who in addition to giving her time on the board, has made one of the largest gifts to our new School of Nursing.

And it's not just the Board of Directors. So many other alums pour themselves into Lee in other ways, serving on other boards, like the Alumni Advisory Board or the Business Advisory Council, or serving as officers of numerous alumni groups, leading their peers from choirs, Greek clubs, athletic teams, and other student organizations. Alums help host and organize Lee events in their hometowns, often actually in their homes, or make contacts with student prospects on our behalf, or hire our graduates, or supervise our student interns, or write a check every year to the Annual Alumni Fund, or simply make it a priority to attend Homecoming or other events.

The impact of this volunteer alumni activity—all of it motivated by sheer love of Lee—is enormous. I don't know how we would get along without it. So even though people have been very generous with their praise for those of us who work at Lee, lots of the credit for the university's success belongs to all of you outside the campus, who during your own busy lives and careers, take time to help us in so many ways—large and small. Gary Sharp was one of those, and we miss him profoundly. But his passing reminds me of the debt of gratitude I owe, not just to him, but to all of you who give us so much. What you do for your alma mater is more important to us than I can express. Thank you so much!



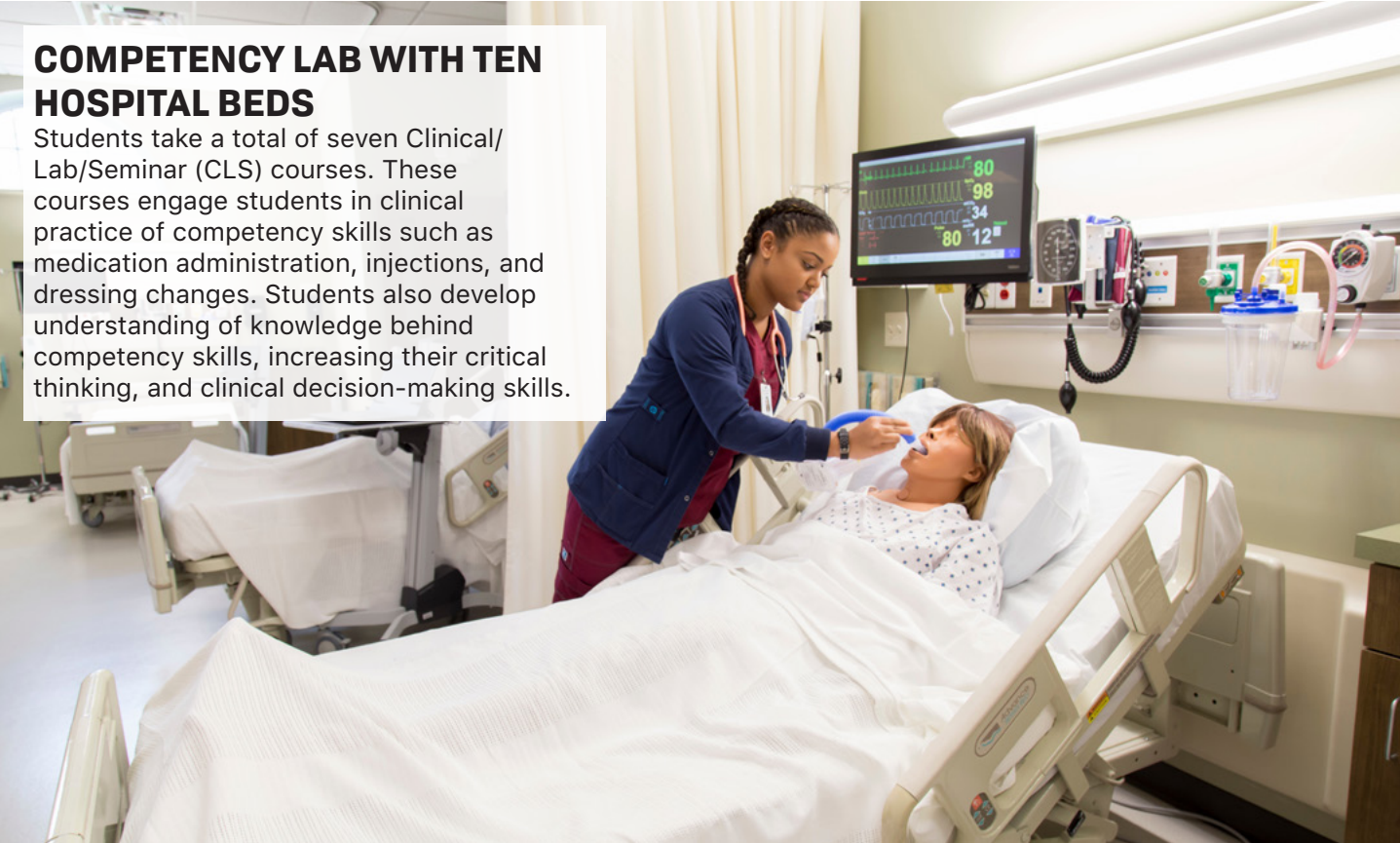




LEE UNIVERSITY  
**SCHOOL OF NURSING**

**COMPETENCY LAB WITH TEN HOSPITAL BEDS**

Students take a total of seven Clinical/Lab/Seminar (CLS) courses. These courses engage students in clinical practice of competency skills such as medication administration, injections, and dressing changes. Students also develop understanding of knowledge behind competency skills, increasing their critical thinking, and clinical decision-making skills.



**RURAL TELE-HEALTH**

This space was designed to serve as a housing spot for the rural tele-health equipment and subsequent simulated scenarios. Equipment consists of two laptops with telemedicine software, blue tooth stethoscope, ophthalmoscope, otoscope, and dermatology lens. The school is a member of a partnership tele-health group, tapping into the tele-health van that visits schools, and other specialty healthcare provider offices.



**DEBRIEF ROOMS**

Faculty and students may see live scenarios unfolding in these simulated lab rooms or they may watch a taped scenario that was done earlier. Faculty work with students to "debrief" the scenario, going through a play-by-play process of what occurred during the scenario.

**MANIKINS**

There are a total of four high-fidelity/tech manikins, including two critical care/advanced medical-surgical, one who gives birth, and a newborn baby. The most advanced manikin is 3G who even has tears and sweats. There are ten low-fidelity/tech manikins and a wide range of task trainers (aka, body parts).

41,000  
SQUARE FEET

SIMULATION  
SUITES

PEDIATRIC  
ROOM

1  
2  
3  
FLOORS

I.C.U.

O.R.

2

INTENSIVE  
CARE UNITS  
ADVANCED  
MEDICAL  
SURGICAL UNITS

OBSTETRICS  
ROOM

LARGE NURSE  
STATION  
SMALL NURSE  
STATION

STATE OF THE ART  
CLINICAL SIMULATION & PRACTICE LABS

SIMULATED  
OXYGEN

SUCTION

ELECTRIC  
CHARTING

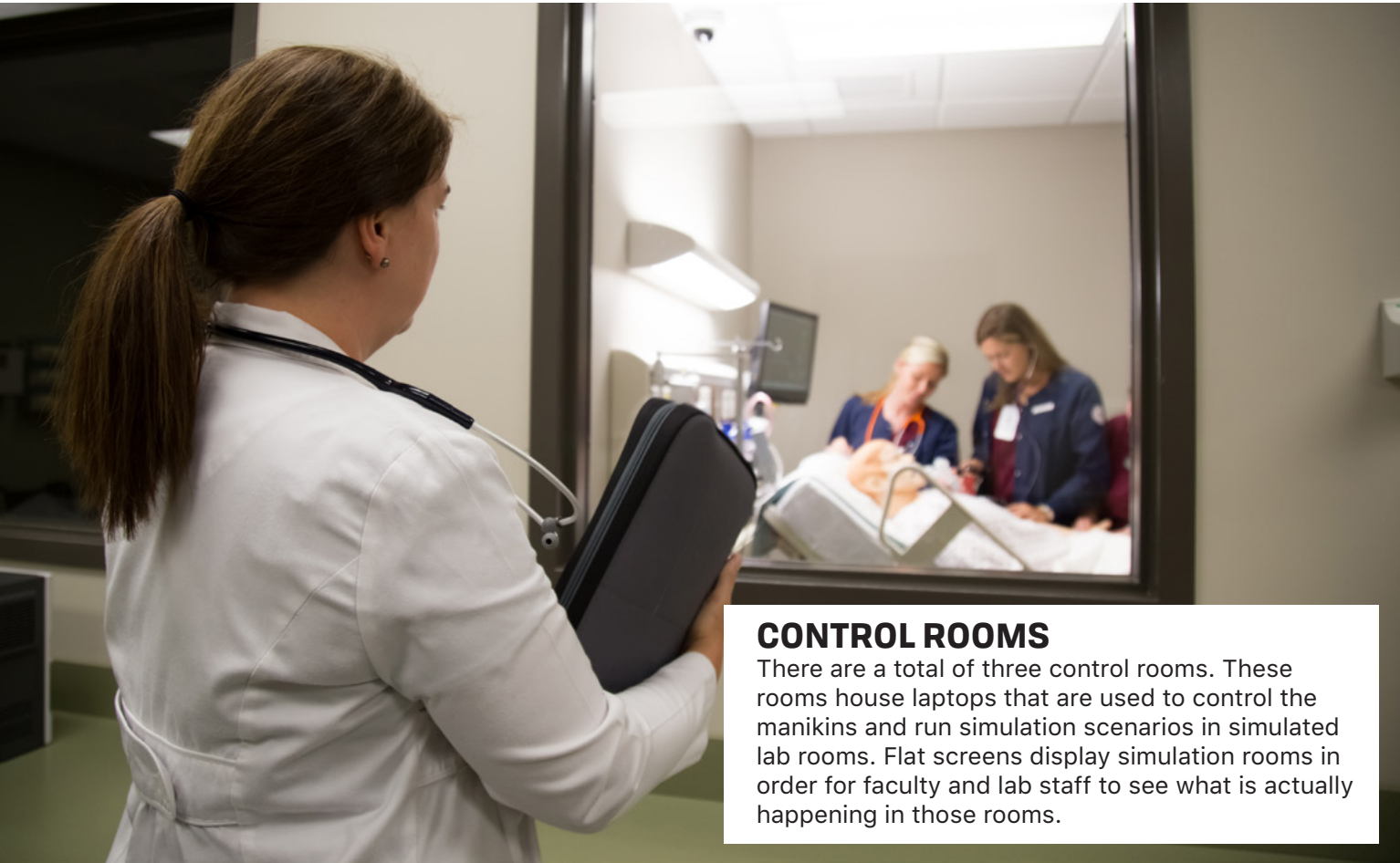
PYXIS  
MACHINE

**CLASSROOMS**

The new School of Nursing has five traditional classrooms, each seating approximately 36 students and two interactive classrooms that each seat 56 students. While all classrooms are equipped with projection technology, the interactive classrooms have additional teaching-learning equipment. These two classrooms consist of round tables and nine flat screens around the room. Five screens have the capability to show one thing while the other four screens reflect something else. There is also a document camera and annotator that can be drawn or written on, that then displays on selected screens. These interactive classrooms facilitate group work such as use of flipped classrooms, case studies, and other innovative teaching approaches.

LEE UNIVERSITY TORCH 5





**CONTROL ROOMS**  
There are a total of three control rooms. These rooms house laptops that are used to control the manikins and run simulation scenarios in simulated lab rooms. Flat screens display simulation rooms in order for faculty and lab staff to see what is actually happening in those rooms.



**HEALTH ASSESSMENT LAB WITH EIGHT EXAM TABLES** ▲  
All nursing students take a health assessment course in the program. The course is designed with classroom and lab components. Students learn about systems of the body and how to differentiate between normal and abnormal physical exam findings.



**STUDENT COMMONS AREA**  
The Commons is a place for students to gather, eat, and work on school assignments. There are tables, chairs, computers, vending machines, and a microwave/sink.



**LECTURE HALL**  
The Lecture Hall consists of 140 seats and is equipped with the latest technology. It has the largest projection screen on campus and a control room that will be used for special events.

**LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER**  
The Learning Resource Center is designed for the following purposes: quiet study, testing, group projects, and access to teaching-learning specialized materials.

**PRAYER ROOM**  
The Prayer Room is a place for reflection, devotions, and prayer. Becoming and being a nurse, is filled with trials and joys. Students and faculty experience many difficult situations while caring for patients. The room is designed to teach students to go to the Lord in prayer for rest and strength and to seek the healing power of the Holy Spirit.

“ All of the faculty, staff, and students are thrilled with the new building! The space and technology will allow us to deliver a creative and innovative curriculum. The building was designed for not just today, but for the future. It was built not just for one aspect of student development as a nurse, but holistically, right down to the Prayer Room. We are blessed.  
—Dr. Sara Campbell, Dean, Lee University School of Nursing





# GARY SHARP LEAVES LEGACY AT LEE

*The chairman of the Lee University Board of Directors, Gary Sharp, passed away in June.*

As cliché as it may sound, Sharp's passing leaves a gaping hole in the fabric of Lee University. Lee president, Dr. Paul Conn, conducted the funeral, along with Gary's pastor, Mitchell Maloney, and Dennis McGuire—Gary's roommate while they were students at Lee. The following are snippets of Conn's eulogy, given on July 1:

Here on this campus, we are not Gary's literal family, but we are very much his Lee family, and our hearts

have been heavy with the memories of a man we greatly loved. We are honored by his desire for this service to take place in this chapel—a place designed and built under his leadership, and where he enjoyed many wonderful experiences.

When the stories of Lee University are told, those of us who knew Gary will be asked to explain: "Exactly what was it about that guy, that he made such an impact; why was he such a big deal?" It defies an easy answer. He was more than

just a board chairman, more than just a generous philanthropist, more than just a loyal friend—but something about Gary went beyond that, and that's why today we sense that we've lost something rare, that we are unlikely ever to replace.

Gary's relationship with Lee began as a teenager, a freshman from a pastor's home



in Tennessee. He met Joyce (Fithian), and although they traveled many miles and lived many places, in their hearts they never strayed far from Lee.

At Lee, Gary will be remembered as a generous donor—Sharp Hall in 1989 and Celebration '90. On other occasions, he and Joyce gave six-figure gifts ... he loved meeting someone who was helped by his scholarship. He didn't like endowments, so his name wasn't on them.

For Lee, he was even more important as a leader of the board. He was the first layman to be chair, and he served 22 years. He served on the Finance Committee, was one-third of the Property Acquisition Committee, recently became chair on the Construction Committee, and chaired the Compensation Committee. He was indispensable, and he is irreplaceable.

He was the kind of board member who never saw his role as a watchdog, but as an encourager. He was a terrific businessman, and he never lost track of the money, never quit thinking about the bottom line, whether it was in the budget or on a building project. He understood the meaning of June 30, the last day of our fiscal year.

Religiously, spiritually, Gary was an amazing combination of being specifically rooted and committed to his particular spiritual background, and still at the same time open and inclusive with fellow believers of all flavors. He wasn't just open to people outside his tradition, but he was comfortable with them.

After college, Gary found his professional gifts in the restaurant business. He had a distinguished career with Shoney's, and it was during that part of his life that he began to emerge as a gifted businessman. The businessman in Gary always informed his role as a board member. He had some core business principles that he consistently invoked in setting

policy or making decisions. As a businessman and policy maker, Gary's genius was his ability to see the small stuff and the big vision at the same time. He cared about the details. He understood Lee's need to manage money very tightly, and to hammer down on all the little things. He was part of a three-man panel who made deals on literally almost a hundred individual property deals over twenty-two years.

The question inevitably arises: Does this test your faith or shake your confidence, for something like this to happen, for such a good man, who follows and trusts God, to suddenly be taken from us? That's the big question, of course. For us, this is a big loss, but is it a tragedy? And I think I speak for all of us here, when I say, no, this is only a tragedy if Gary is really gone, if somehow he no longer exists.

But we know that Gary has not ceased to be; to the contrary. He is gone from us in order to be vividly, personally, literally, in the presence of Jesus Christ. So we take hope in eternal life, more now than ever, because we know that it is impossible that a voice so unique as Gary's, an energy for life so vibrant, can't be simply silenced. So today, our spirit bears witness to the certain truth of Scripture that for Gary to be absent from us is not to be dead, but to be alive with God himself; and in time, we can count on being reunited with him also.

If you have a tough job to do, the person you want to come work by your side is GS.

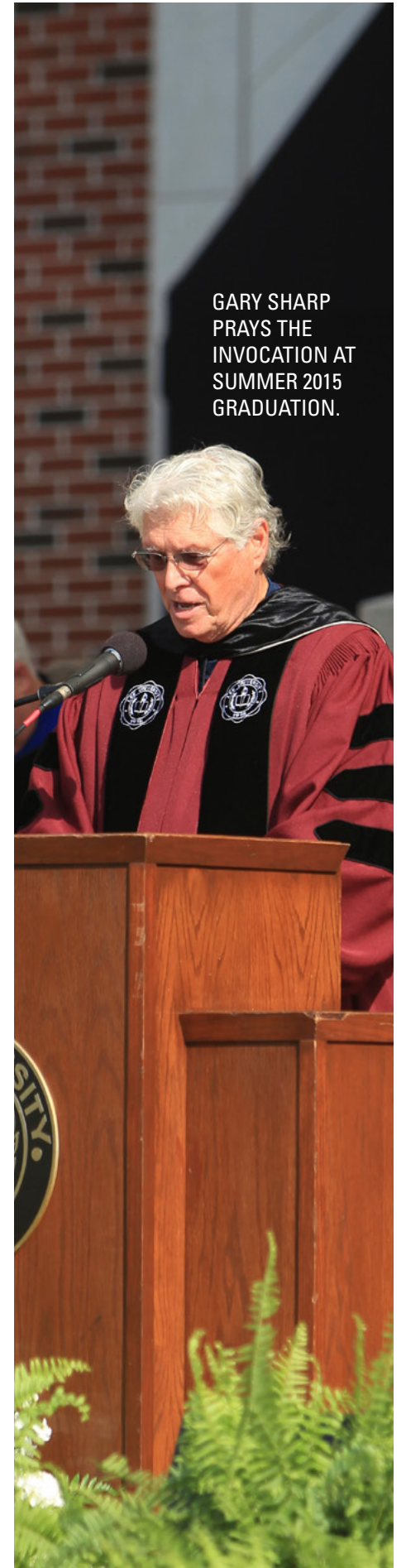
If you're facing criticism or some kind of attack, the person you want to watch your back is GS.

If you've messed up somehow and need a little grace, the person you want to be your judge is GS.

If you're in some kind of financial need, the person you want to hear your story is GS.

If you're in the dumps and just need somebody who will bring the party, the person you want to see walking in the door is GS.

GARY SHARP  
PRAYS THE  
INVOCATION AT  
SUMMER 2015  
GRADUATION.



THOSE ATTENDING GARY SHARP'S FUNERAL PARTICIPATED IN A BALLOON RELEASE IN HIS HONOR.





MUSIC

# Ladies of Lee Is First Ensemble to Travel to India



ANGELA BARRETT

A group of students from Lee University recently traveled with their music professor and director, Dr. Jonathan Rodgers, to Goa, India, to partner with Rahab’s Rope—a ministry dedicated to combating human trafficking. The 26 Lee students were all members of Ladies of Lee, the university’s women’s choir.

During the nine-day trip, the group conducted a Vacation Bible School program at a local YMCA, did home visits with at-risk individuals living in slums, and participated in prayer walks in the city. In the evenings, they gave concerts in various community centers or churches.

According to Rodgers, he became interested in the work of Rahab’s Rope two years ago at a conference and had looked into opportunities to work with them. “As much as anything,” Rodgers said, “this trip made us aware about the trafficking and poverty situation in India, and consequently, how we can make our communities and churches more

aware of this tragic situation globally.”

This is the first time any Lee ensemble has traveled to India.

“Our trip was beyond words, but these moments of delight, of tangible joy between people despite language, culture, or experience are what will stick with me when I look back on our time spent in Goa,” stated Melanie Mendoza, president of Ladies of Lee.

“As we (Ladies of Lee) concluded our 50th anniversary year, it seemed only appropriate to cap it off by continuing a tradition that started many years ago of going out and spreading joy through Spirit-filled singing,” said Rodgers. “Our vision is not only to sing to people, but also to share what God has done in our lives; and as we do that, we depend on the Spirit of God to light a divine spark in the hearts of those who hear our message.”

—KAREN CHAMBLESS

Ladies of Lee are pictured here at The Se’ Cathedral in Old Goa following their concert.

MISSIONS

# Lee Campus Unites in Sending Aid to Liberian Orphanage

A group from Lee took a three-week trip to Liberia in May to bring supplies and aid to the Phebe Gray Orphanage, all of which were donated or fundraised by Lee faculty, staff, and students.

Faculty and staff who traveled to Liberia included Drs. Murl and Carolyn Dirksen, Lori Mattace, Amy Mercer, and Dr. Arlie Tagayuna. Lee students on the trip included Abigail Christopher, Barbara Curran, Rachel Richards, Spencer Smith, and Georgia Wright.

Multiple departments across campus came together to fundraise and collect needed materials for the orphanage, which is run by the Church of God and has a school for the students.



Amy Mercer, Lee University librarian, is pictured here (standing) reading to a group of children at the Phebe Gray Orphanage Library in Liberia. Mercer and Lori Mattace, Lee University Public Services librarian (seated), joined with other members of Lee’s library staff to prepare a library of 700 books for the orphanage school.

PARTICIPATING GROUPS FROM LEE INCLUDED:

- The education honor society, Kappa Delta Pi
- Squires Library
- The Early Learning Center, which collected over 700 books for the library at the orphanage school
- Librarians worked to catalogue books in a spreadsheet.
- Two of Lee’s benevolence classes put books into plastic bags for protection from the tropical humidity.
- Faculty and staff donated suitcases to transport the books.
- Dr. Mava Wilson’s computer information technology class researched and set up learning games on donated laptops, which were taken to the school along with durable cases and long-life batteries.
- The Helen DeVos College of Education faculty made ten instructional videos to help the teachers at the school with basic teaching techniques and classroom management.
- A class in the HDCOE prepared learning games for every grade level.

Additionally, a financial donation from Mission Week fundraising at Lee was brought to help the staff at Phebe Gray Orphanage.

Since the orphanage has no electricity, ten solar packages were donated, each of which has the capacity to light one large room. Donated packages to provide exterior lighting were also installed at the orphanage.

While in Liberia, Mattace and Mercer worked to set up the library with the supplies they had brought. Tagayuna and Murl Dirksen, along with the Lee students on the trip, worked to install the solar panels and paint the buildings. They also performed community needs assessment in a local village, which involved doing focus groups with community leaders about Ebola efforts.

“We were able to get mosquito nets and new bedding for every child,” Carolyn Dirksen said. “I interviewed all the teachers at the school, and we bought basic classroom supplies for all of them—things as simple as copy books, pencils, textbooks, and maps.”

“They were very touched to learn that the money for all these projects came from Lee students,” Dirksen added. “This was a remarkable campus-wide project that really made a difference.”

—KAREN CHAMBLESS



## STUDENTS

# Summer Honors Welcomes Largest Class

**L**ee University concluded its 31st annual, two-week Summer Honors residential program with over 200 students from 22 different states, a record-setting turnout in attendance.

One of the many opportunities the incoming freshman and rising seniors had during Summer Honors was to earn six hours of academic credit in order to get a head start on their college careers. Each student was able to take two of the 14 classes offered to introduce and prepare them for the university-style classroom.

Students are also exposed to other activities such as whitewater rafting, an Atlanta Braves game, a trip to Chattanooga's Riverbend festival, Greek Olympics, a movie night, and much more, all to encourage participants to grow, laugh, and connect with one another.

Service and spirituality are also highly emphasized during Summer Honors. Within the two-week experience, students dedicated one Saturday to different service projects all around Cleveland, serving organizations such as Tri-State Therapeutic Riding Center, Habitat Restore, YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, and Cleveland Emergency Shelter.

"Working with 200 gifted students in Summer Honors is a professional and personal privilege," said the vice president for Student Development, Mike Hayes. "Even though the program lasts only two weeks, it's apparent that these students are impacted academically, spiritually, and relationally."

—MARISA GILBERT



## Three Fall Enrollment Records Broken

**L**ee University officials have announced three significant new fall enrollment records have been set for 2016.

According to Phil Cook, vice president for enrollment, students enrolling for classes at Lee for the fall 2016 semester totaled 5,302 students, a new all-time record. Cook also announced that the number of freshmen enrolled was just under 900 at 889, making it the most freshmen students in the history of the school.

Student enrollment includes full-time and part-time students, online as well on-campus enrollees.

Over the past 30 years, student enrollment has climbed nearly every year. The first record of this period was set back in fall of 1988 when the student population topped off at 1,534, shattering the previous record of 1,342 set in 1979.

"We are excited to see such a great turnout in

this year's freshmen," Cook said, "but this group is special because they aren't just bigger than ever, they are more academically prepared than ever."

Cook referred to a statistic used to predict academic success based on college board test performance. The average ACT score for this incoming group has surged to a never-before-seen 24.47.

"It's an important number," Cook said, "because it means not only are we still reaching students all along the spectrum of preparedness, but also by growing we aren't diluting the pool. We actually have a bigger, more potent group of learners."

"It's one thing to grow by loosening standards or reaching out to students without other options," Cook continued. "We are proud of the diverse student population we have. It means they are talented students who have options, and they believe Lee is the best choice."



GRADUATION

# Chattanooga Mayor Delivers Summer Commencement Address



Chattanooga Mayor Andy Berke

**A**ndy Berke, mayor of Chattanooga, addressed graduates and guests at Lee University's summer commencement on Saturday, July 30. Summer commencement is one of three graduation ceremonies held each year at the university, the others being held in the spring and winter. More than 180 degrees were conferred, about 50 of which were graduate students. Berke graduated with honors from the University of Chicago Law School, after which he worked as a law clerk and taught at Kansas University Law School. Elected to the Tennessee State Senate in 2007 and reelected to a second term in 2008, Berke became vice chairman of the Senate Democratic Caucus where he served on the Senate Education and Transportation Committees. He was also appointed to the State Workforce Development Board. Berke was elected mayor of Chattanooga in March 2013, with more than 72 percent of the vote. Since his election, unemployment has dropped more than two percent and more than 6,157 new jobs have come to the Chattanooga region. Foreclosure rates have decreased while Chattanooga had the third highest wage growth in the country for a mid-sized city in 2014. The graduation festivities began with a hooding ceremony for students earning graduate degrees. This service took place in the Lee University Chapel on Friday, July 29. After the hooding ceremony, all graduates marched in the Commissioning service at 6:30 p.m. in the Conn Center. During Commissioning, six graduates shared stories of their Lee experiences, and all graduates received Bibles to commemorate the milestone. Following the service, there was a reception in Alumni Park for graduates and their guests.

ACCREDITATION

# Marriage and Family Is Only Accredited Program in Tennessee

**L**ee University's Marriage and Family Therapy Program has officially received accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE), making Lee the first and only school in Tennessee having a program with this accreditation. COAMFTE has strict guidelines regarding both academic and clinical training,

and graduates of COAMFTE programs must meet high standards of professional knowledge and development. "Our MFT program authentically integrates faith,



science, and experience into the clinical practice of marriage and family therapy," said Dr. Trevor Milliron, director of graduate programs in counseling at Lee. "From our faith, we draw the concepts of hope, love, forgiveness, reconciliation, faithfulness and commitment. From science, we embrace an empirical worldview where our treatments are evidence-based."

CONSTRUCTION

# Then and Now

**E**arlier this year the Cleveland City Council voted to close portions of three city streets to allow for further development of the south end of campus. The area is located to the east and west of Parker Street, across from the new School of Nursing and south of Keeble Hall women's residence.

**THEN**— This photo, looking west from Walker Street, shows the three blocks of 6th Street that were voted to be closed on February 9 by the City Council (note public notice sign). To the right is Keeble Hall. The actual closing took in the intersections at Walker, Parker, and Church Streets. For perspective, a white car can be seen stopped at the farthest point of the closing, the intersection of Church and 6th Streets, in the far distance.

**NOW**— Taken from the same vantage point in late August, summer transformation shows the removal of three houses along the left side of the former 6th Street, creating a sight line to the School of Nursing. New parking has been installed to the right and left, terminating at Parker Street. Obscured by trees on the right is Keeble Hall and off in the distance mounds of dirt can be seen where 6th Street used to be. Also obscured on the right is the site of The Forum, under construction and partially in the path of the former 6th Street.





# Fall 2016 New Faculty

## COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



### SARAH BUMPS

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ACCOUNTING**  
B.B.A Finance, International Emphasis, Texas Christian University, 1996  
Master of Accounting, Texas Christian University, 2003  
M.A. Government, Regent University, 2014  
J.D. Regent University, 2014



### BRENT FERRELL

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY**  
B.S. Biochemistry, Lee University, 2008  
M.S. Chemistry, University of Kentucky, 2012  
Ph.D., Chemical Education, University of Northern Colorado, 2016



### COTY MCFARLAND

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ACCOUNTING**  
B.S. Electronics Engineering Management, Francis Marion University, 1988  
M.S. Engineering Management, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, 1999



### ALLISON PIERCE

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ACCOUNTING**  
B.S. Business Administration, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga  
M.B.A. Organizational Management, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga  
Ph.D. Business Administration, North Central University, 2013



### JOSHUA RIO-ROSS

**VISITING LECTURER IN MATHEMATICS**  
B.S. Mathematics, Oral Roberts University, 2011  
B.S. English Literature, Oral Roberts University, 2011  
M.A. Mathematics, University of Missouri, 2013  
M.A.R.c. Philosophical Theology, Yale University, 2015



### MICHAEL SMITH

**PROFESSOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS**  
B.A. English Language and Literature, University of Maryland, 1978  
M.S. Communication/Journalism, Shippensburg University, 1986  
Ph.D. Mass Communications, Regent University, 1999



### ASHLEE STEPHENS

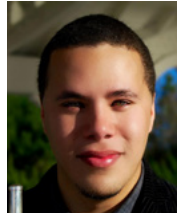
**VISITING LECTURER IN MATHEMATICS**  
B.S. Mathematics, University of Louisiana, Monroe, 2011  
M.A.T. Clemson University, 2016

## SCHOOL OF MUSIC



### CHOEUN LEE

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF COLLABORATIVE PIANO/VOCAL COACHING**  
B.M. Piano Performance, Kyung-Won University, Korea, 2005  
M.M. Collaborative Piano, University of Cincinnati – Conservatory of Music, 2008  
Ph.D. Keyboard Collaborative Arts, University of Southern California, 2013



### JOSÉ RUIZ

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR MUSIC BUSINESS**  
B.A. Music Studies, University of South Florida, 2009  
M.M. Instrumental Performance, University of Miami, 2012  
Ph.D. Music Education, University of South Florida, 2016

## SCHOOL OF RELIGION



### KEVIN SNIDER

**VISITING LECTURER IN ETHICS**  
B.A. Christian Ministry and Bible, Lee University, 2009  
M.Div. Theology, Pentecostal Theological Seminary, 2013  
M.A. Theological Studies, Lee University, 2014



### BRENDA JONES

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF NURSING**  
A.A. Nursing, Augusta State College, 1974  
B.S.N. University of South Florida, 1993  
M.S.N. Nurse Midwifery Program, University of Florida, Gainesville, 1996  
Ph.D. Public Health, Epidemiology, Walden University, 2016



### BARBARA RICHARDSON

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF NURSING**  
M.S.N. and B.S.N. Florida Atlantic University, 1999 and 2001  
D.N.P. University of Florida, 2012  
Post-master's N.E. Certification, Florida Atlantic University, 2016



### JEANNIE DUFF

**LECTURER IN NURSING**  
B.S.N. Jacksonville University, 1995  
M.S.N. Jacksonville University, 2015



### JESSICA PRICE

**LECTURER IN NURSING**  
B.S.N. Tennessee Wesleyan College, 2009  
M.S.N. Nursing Education, Southern Adventist University, 2016



### KATHLEEN ROSE

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF NURSING**  
Assistant Professor of Nursing  
B.S.N. Ball State University, 1976  
M.S.N. University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, 1996



## DAL TRAINING PREPARES FLORIDA PASTOR TO BECOME MAYOR

by Rodney Cannon

Frostproof is a small rural community located one hour south of Orlando. I've been pastor of the Church of God in this community since 2012. In 2013, I enrolled in the Lee University DAL (Division of Adult Learning) program in order to finish my undergraduate degree. I was attracted to the Ministry Leadership program, specifically the administration emphasis.

In recent years, I have been drawn toward growing my leadership capacity. Nearing graduation, I felt the call to greater leadership responsibilities. I love living in this community, because God has given me a heart for this city; so, I began to pray about what was next. My direction became clearer when I read of three City Council seats coming up for election. The council at the time was making decisions that did not accurately reflect the wishes of the community. So, at the request of close friends and family, I entered the election. Being a pastor, the public speaking part of the campaign was easy. I had to get out and let people get to know me. Both of my opponents were lifelong residents of this small town, one of whom was a former mayor.

God's favor was on me, as I won the election by only 20 votes. Immediately at the first City Council meeting, I was elected to serve as vice mayor. During that first year

on the council, I was able to utilize much of the practical knowledge I gained from the Ministry Leadership DAL program. I jokingly compare city government to pastoring a church, except I don't expect the residents of the city to act like Christians.

A number of vital issues came to the council in that first year, and I was able to navigate them with poise and a calm demeanor. My ability to keep cool in a heated debate and provide a balanced perspective to all issues earned me the respect of my colleagues, some who had been serving on the City Council for many years. So, when election time rolled around again, I was unchallenged for my City Council seat, and I was elected by my peers to serve as mayor.

Since becoming mayor, God has opened doors for me to represent our city at events with the county, state of Florida, and even in Washington D.C. My greatest hope is that people may see Jesus through me and that government is not all corrupt. We, the church, can be the change we wish to see, and I hope we can continue to place godly people in those positions of leadership.

I graduated from Lee in December 2015. Upon graduation, I was given a pin inscribed with the Greek word *Diakoneo*, meaning "called to serve." A little more than three

months later, I was sworn in as the highest public servant office in my community while wearing that pin. I wear it whenever I preside over a meeting and the decisions made will affect our entire community. I am reminded of my call to serve when I preside over our multimillion-dollar annual budget.

God has given me a heart for this community. Pastoring my church has opened the door for me to pastor this entire city. There are scores of people who would never come to my church, but they get to see me live out the gospel of Jesus every day.







In July 1998, Dr. Hermilo Jasso led the first Department of Business student Global Perspective Summer Trip to South America. Since then, for eighteen years, he has been the primary leader with other business faculty accompanying him each summer. This year, May 2016, I had the privilege of going with him and 18 business students to Uruguay and Argentina for their cross-cultural experience. We flew overnight into Montevideo, Uruguay, for a five-day stay, then a bus trip to Salta, Uruguay, for three days. Afterward, we continued to Buenos Aires, Argentina, for a five-day stay before returning by bus to Uruguay and our overnight flight home. During these 15 days, we experienced

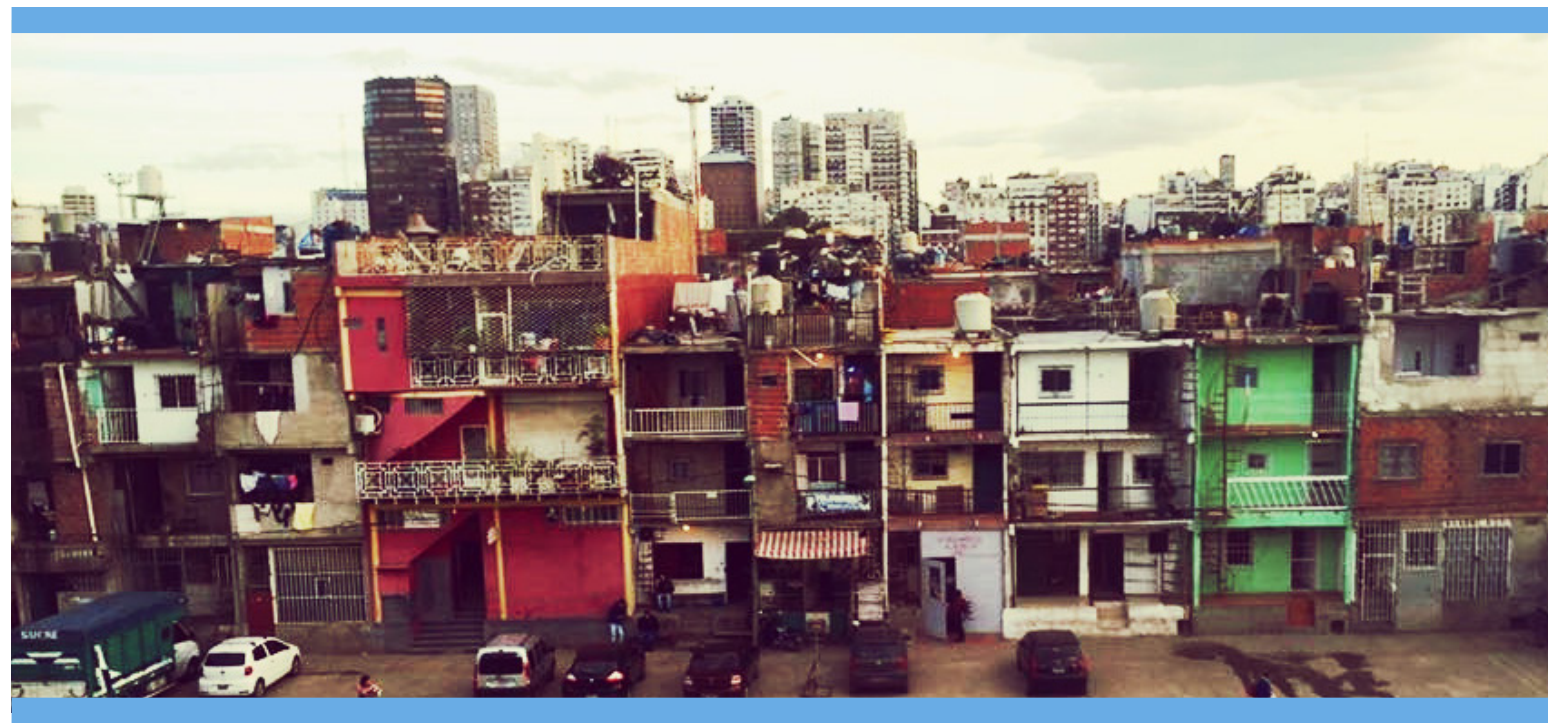
## STUDENTS VISIT SOUTH AMERICA

by MAVA WILSON

two vastly different cultures. Uruguay is a small country squeezed in between Brazil and Argentina on the Atlantic coast. Before its independence in 1825, it was occupied at various times by Spain, Portugal, Argentina, and Brazil. Their influence is seen in the buildings, streets, and culture. We visited Antigua Colonia del Sacramento, one of the oldest cities in Uruguay at the mouth of the Rio de la Plata whose Historic quarter is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The students were amazed at the homes built in the late 1600s as we walked down the different styles of cobblestone streets. Drains in the middle identified it as a Portuguese community; whereas, the drains down

the sides indicated a Spanish influence. (Picture? with group in front of gate) Tourist towns with high-end resorts near Punta del Este, a gorgeous coastline, and Carlos Páez Vilaró's Casapueblo were sights experienced as we explored Uruguay.

Montevideo, the capital city of Uruguay, is a small quaint place on the north shore of the Rio de la Plata with around 1.3 million people (more than half the country's population). This city, with its beautiful European style buildings and influence, is considered the city with the highest quality of life in Latin America. The Palacio Legislativo (Legislative Palace) is considered the most beautiful government building in the world with 17 different types of natural Uruguayan marble in the floors, columns, and walls. The gaucho museum was a highlight as the curator dressed students, Sergio Garcia and Kath-



erine Davis, as gauchos from long ago. Students loved this beautiful city and the food—we all enjoyed steak galore—wonderful, local steak that was fork tender, flavorful, and always served with French fries. The desserts, crème brûlée, Tiramisu, ice cream, and fresh fruit were eagerly consumed. Continental breakfasts with cold cuts, cereals, pastries, fresh fruit, and dulce de leche (a

delicious caramel spread), along with strong local coffee was enjoyed by some of the students!

The Port of Montevideo, a natural port, is never quiet as it draws new businesses and cruise ships year round. As we toured this busy port, the mountains of containers and cranes created a picture of a thriving industry (picture? with students at port). The port is on Rio de la Plata which flows from the Atlantic in-country creating a natural border between Uruguay and Argentina. It is the primary mode of transporting goods to Uruguay, Argentina to the south, and landlocked Paraguay to the northwest.

Salto, a small resort community up the river, is known for its natural hot springs. The restorative power of these waters was enjoyed by all, especially on Monday at the water spring hot springs. On Sunday, we attended mass where our host priest gave an inspiring talk for Pentecost Sunday—as several of us quietly translated to the others. We were reminded that the Holy Spirit wasn't just for 2000 years ago in the past, but is now in the present, living in us to tell others about Him and His love, and to help change the communities around us. The Salto congregation warmly welcomed us to their church.

As we drove through the sparse Uruguayan countryside seeing fields full of cattle, windmill farms, fast-growing eucalyptus trees, and a large paper pulp

mill, we were reminded of the diverse landscape of this Latin American country. As we crossed the river, made it through the border, and headed into Argentina, we immediately realized it was another world.

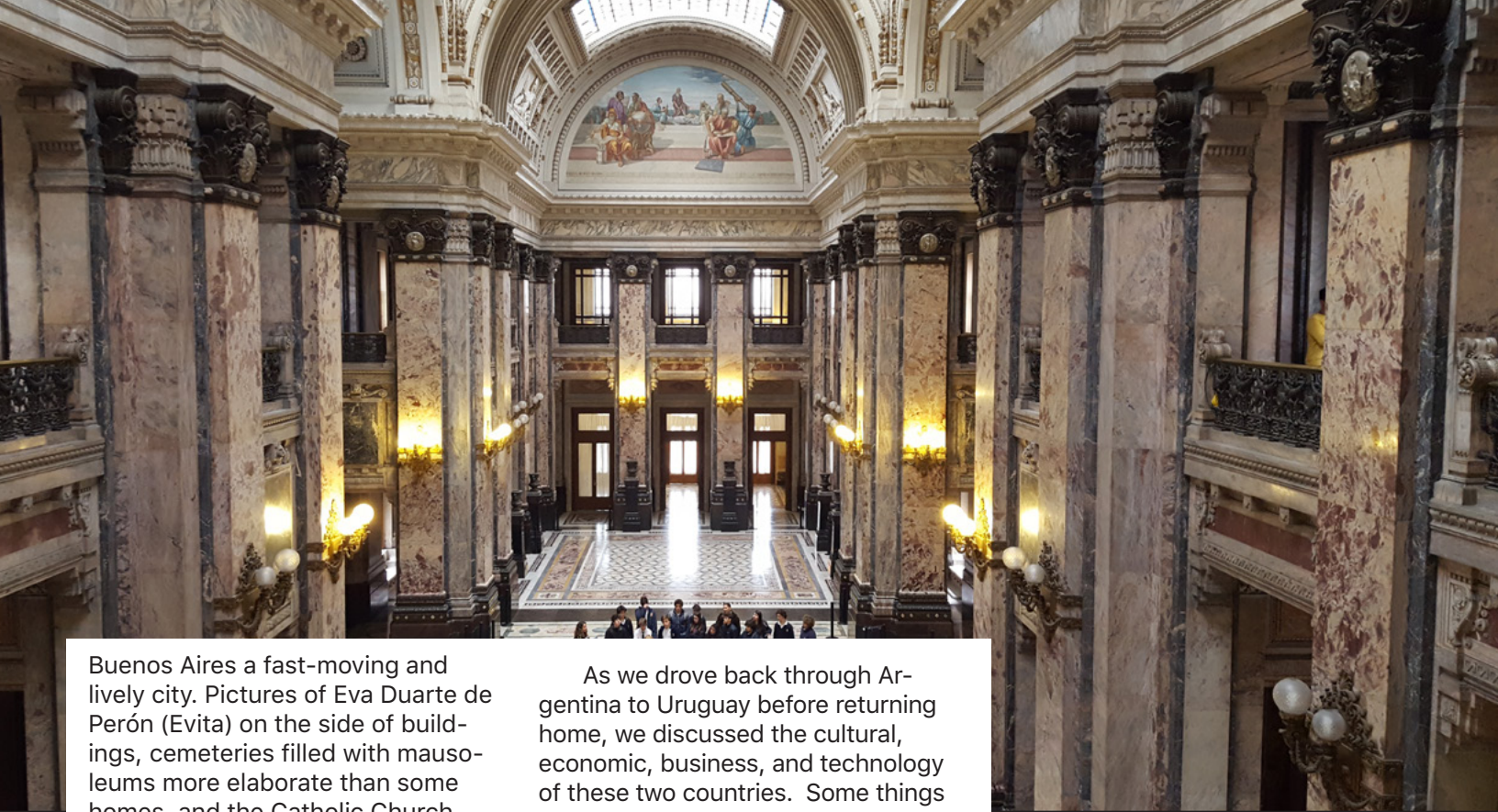
The landscape changed significantly with houses and people everywhere, and we were reminded that the population of Uruguay is just a fraction of the population of Argentina. Buenos Aires, the capital city of Argentina, has almost five times as many people. Our first glimpse illustrated this fact as we witnessed vast numbers of small rooms stacked several floors high built on the edge of the public road. These "shanty cities" of the poor who had nowhere to go shows the contrast of an overpopulated area and a broad divide in those who have and those who do not.

Buenos Aires is loud, fast-paced, and beautiful. From gorgeous European-style coffee shops that have been around since the mid-1800s to a Burger King in a former presidential palace, Buenos Aires seems to have it all. Tango and every kind of restaurant imaginable, as well as the main street with 20 lanes (the widest street in the world), makes



GLOBAL  
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Buenos Aires a fast-moving and lively city. Pictures of Eva Duarte de Perón (Evita) on the side of buildings, cemeteries filled with mausoleums more elaborate than some homes, and the Catholic Church where Pope Francis previously presided, shows Buenos Aires to be a city filled with history.

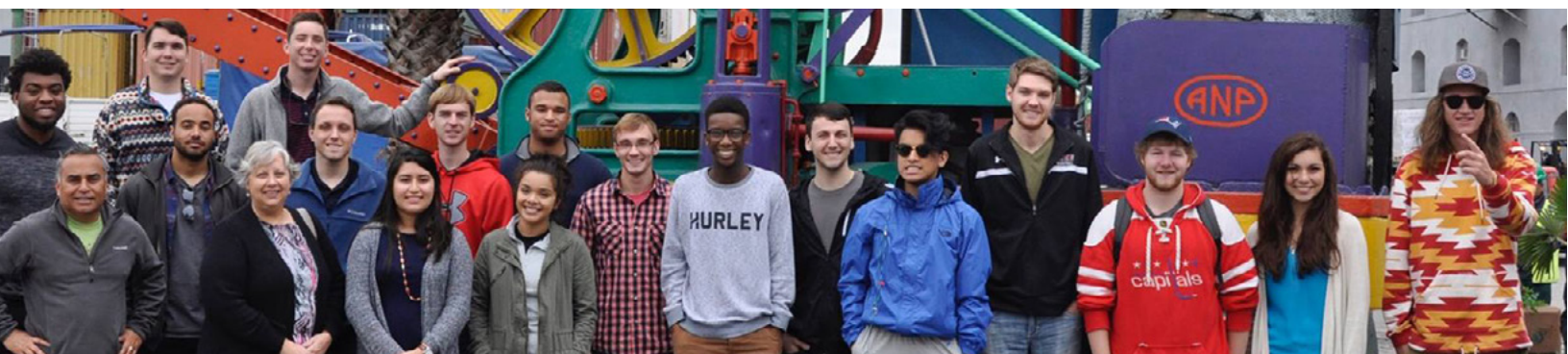
Through Dr. Jasso's contact, our students had the opportunity to visit the Latin American headquarters of Turner Broadcasting. This vastly technological advanced branch of TBS is housed in a historic building that from the outside seems no different than all the other buildings, but inside it is full of rooms, cubicles, computers, and people. Students were amazed at everything that went on in this building, including opportunities to telecommute, translating booths, and a basement full of backup servers. CNN, TNT, Cartoon Network, and TBS were just a few of the familiar channels observed live in the viewing room. As Jervon Johnson viewed the voice-over procedure in action for the first time, he found it amazing and could tell that these employees took their job seriously in every aspect.

As we drove back through Argentina to Uruguay before returning home, we discussed the cultural, economic, business, and technology of these two countries. Some things were highly appreciated and others, like the communal maté (a herbal tea drunk from a communal cup) were not a favorite. They discovered as Maria Cases said, "that the One Laptop per Child project (Plan Ceibal) in Uruguay is surely amazing," and that by 2020, all students in the public school system will have a laptop when they enter school. They were, as Joshua Wagler put it, "concerned that the United States may be falling behind as technology classes are being removed in progressively earlier grade levels." Many felt as Katherine Davis did that we should "follow South America's lead by helping children acquire individual computers as they enter the school system to better prepare them for the future..."

Students experienced economic changes as they strove to keep up with vastly different money exchange rates in the two countries (130 pesos to a dollar versus 32 pesos to the dollar) and the set-

back of receiving less pesos per dollar from one day to the next (in Argentina). They witnessed the economic effect of a neighboring country's politics as we were in South America in May when Brazil had political issues. They saw how different two side-by-side, Spanish-speaking countries are with Montevideo being tranquil (peaceful or laid back) and Buenos Aires being loco (crazily busy or fast-paced). They worked hard at learning a few Spanish words, to at least be able to order lunch or find the baño. All the students experienced two cultures and were as Hayden Boone said, "very glad I got to see firsthand the similarities and differences of Argentinians and Uruguayans..."

DR. MAVA WILSON IS AN ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS.



## SOCCER

## Furey Begins Tenth Season With Men's Soccer



Coach Paul Furey, center, enjoys a moment with his senior captains David Perez, left, and Quade Marinell

The Lee men's soccer team finished the 2015 campaign with a 6-2-1 in GSC play and 11-5-2. Lee was eliminated in the opening round of the GSC tournament after a 3-2 loss to West Florida.

Senior forward David Perez, the GSC Player of the Year and an NCAA D2 All-American, is the only Flame listed on the 2016 Preseason All-GSC Team, which featured 12-total players, including two goalkeepers.

Coach Paul Furey, who enters his 10th season as the Lee head coach, saw his team open the season at the Lee Soccer Field against Illinois-Springfield and D2 powerhouse Lynn University. The Flames began GSC play on Sept. 30 at Christian Brothers University.

## SOCCER

## Women's Soccer is Preseason Favorite

Last season the Lee women's soccer team was the Gulf South Conference (GSC) tournament runner-up and lost to the University of Tampa in the opening round of the NCAA Division II tournament, but the Lady Flames entered the 2016 season as the preseason favorite, as dubbed by the GSC coaches.

Lee opened the regular season against Wingate University and Bellarmine University in the annual Columbus State (Ga.) Invitational. The Lady Flames tested rival North Alabama in their first test against a GSC opponent.

"It's nice that the other GSC coaches have respect for our program; however, we know that there is a long way to go, and a number of different teams are capable of winning the GSC this year," said Lee head coach Chris Hennessey.

Lee paced the GSC last season going 10-2 to top the conference regular-season standings and claimed a share of the GSC regular-season title with North Alabama, the 2016 GSC Tournament champion.



McKenzie Bricker (19) and Summer Lanter will help the Lady Flames carry high hopes into the 2016 season.





Coach Andrea Hudson, center, is surrounded by her two new assistants, Haleigh, left, and Bryan Carvalho.

## VOLLEYBALL

**B**ryan and Haleigh Carvalho joined the Lady Flames coaching staff during the summer. Bryan will serve as the assistant coach while his wife, Haleigh, will be the graduate assistant coach.

Bryan joins the staff with extensive experience in the volleyball coaching world, having served two seasons as the first assistant with Azusa Pacific. His primary duties included recruiting and training with the California school. In 2013, he joined the Cal State Bakersfield program and helped lead the Roadrunners to within one victory of the NCAA Division I National Tournament. Prior to working at Cal State Bakersfield, he served as the head coach at Bethel Baptist High School.

"Lee University volleyball is so blessed to get both Bryan and Haleigh," said veteran head coach Andrea Hudson, who enters her 26th year as leader of the Lady Flames. "Bryan has a very successful coaching background in California, and I think he will step in and do a wonderful job as our assistant coach. His knowledge of DII and expertise in skill teaching will be invaluable. The icing on the cake is his wife, Haleigh. She played at a high level and is fresh out of college. She will bring some fresh ideas as well to our team. She is anxious to begin working with some of our players this fall."

Haleigh joins the Lee staff with one season of collegiate coaching experience at Irvine Valley College (Calif.) after finishing up a storied playing career at Long Beach State University and Clemson University.

## BASKETBALL

## Men's Basketball Readies for Smith Era

**T**he Ryan "Bubba" Smith era of Lee University men's basketball tips off on Nov. 5 when the Flames host Piedmont College in the annual Homecoming (exhibition) game.

The Flames will officially begin the regular season on Nov. 12–13 when they travel to the University of West Georgia to take part in the annual Peach Belt/Gulf South Classic. Lee will be pitted against Miles College on the 12th and then face Lane College on the 13th.

The official home season begins on Nov. 19, when Brescia University (Ky.) visits Walker Arena. After a visit to Palm Beach Atlantic University for an invitational

tournament on Nov. 26 and 27, the Flames will open Gulf South Conference play on Dec. 3, when they host rival Shorter University.

Coach Smith will welcome the following returning players: seniors Jervon Johnson, Rico Overall, Keevin Tyus, Cody Farley, Bryce Copeland; junior Levi Woods; and sophomore Isaac Merian. Senior Cam High and Jonathan Vecchio are listed as walk-ons.

Senior Mike Kobani and sophomore Cody Jones are transferring into Coach Smith's program while freshmen Ryan Montgomery, Leander Ridgeway, Jr., Parker Suedekum, Sawyer Taylor, and Kevin Wharton-Price are new recruits and will be seeking playing time.

## BASKETBALL

## Lady Flames B'Ballers: A Power in the Classroom

**L**ee Women's head basketball coach, Marty Rowe, of the Lady Flames produced another outstanding team. The team was 20–10 in the Gulf South Conference (GSC) and NCAA Division II (D2) programs. The Lady Flames were ranked 10th among all the D2 programs in the country and were the only Gulf South Conference program listed in academics by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA).

Lee's women finished the 2015–2016 academic school year with a 3.627 GPA. Rising junior Erin Walsh not only paced the Lady Flames in scoring, but also she was named the GSC Player of the Year and recorded a perfect 4.0 GPA. Every member of the women's team earned a spot on the GSC Honor Roll.

The WBCA Academic Top 25 recognizes NCAA Division I, II, and III; they also recognize NAIA and junior/community college women's basketball teams across the nation that carry the highest combined GPAs inclusive of all student-athletes on their rosters for the entire season. The 2015–2016 season is the 21st in which the WBCA has compiled the honor rolls.

The Lady Flames open the 2016–2017 schedule with a Homecoming exhibition game against Sewanee, and the regular season with a trip to Lakeland, Fla. to face two powers from the South Region—Saint Leo University and Florida Southern College. The GSC regular-season slate begins with a home date (Dec. 3) against Shorter University.



Walsh

## CROSS-COUNTRY

## Cross Country Projected to Finish No. 1 in GSC

**B**oth the Lee men's and women's cross country team have been projected to place first in the Gulf South Conference (GSC) Preseason Men's and Women's Cross Country Coaches Polls.

The Flames walked away with the GSC championship last fall while the Lady Flames placed second. The inaugural poll saw Lee, the reigning GSC champion, collect nine first-place votes and 99 total points to secure the top position.

"We are very humbled by the recognition," said Lee head cross country coach Caleb Morgan. "I am glad the other coaches in the conference recognize our team as being the top program. We know we have a target on our back. We would love to have the opportunity to repeat as champs this year."

The Flames and Lady Flames opened the 2016 season in Greenville, S.C., taking part in the Furman University Cross Country Classic on Sept. 10.



Audrey Smith will be counted on heavily as the Lady Flames seek to earn the first-place trophy in Gulf South Conference Cross Country.



BASEBALL

# Baseball Has Great ‘All-Around’ Year

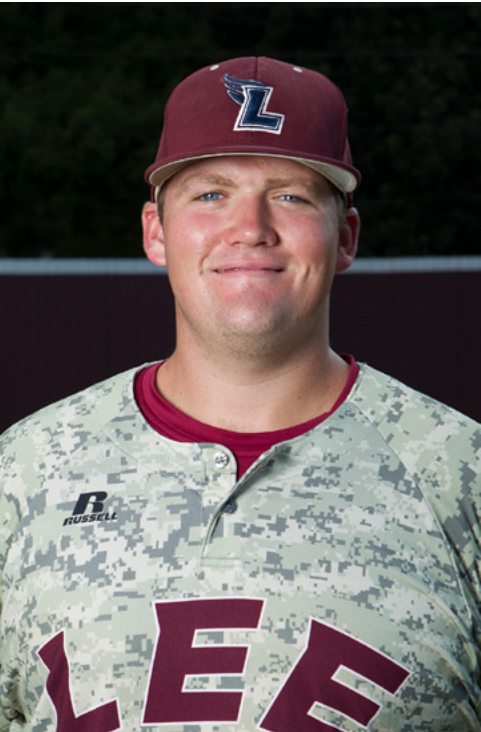
Lee University baseball garnered the attention of not only local media but also media around the Southeast when Ben Holland was named the 2016 Gulf South Conference (GSC) Player of the Year and was listed among the “Top 10” athletes in the entire conference. Brew, who will begin his 11th season in charge of the baseball program, was listed in the “Top 25” coaches for

all sports in Tennessee. The list was compiled by highly respected sportswriter David Climer and *The Ledger*. The annual Military Appreciation Day, hosted by the Lee baseball, raised \$8,500 for the local Veterans Cemetery.

*A brief summary of the accomplishments are listed:*

## Brew Listed Among State’s Top Coaches

David Climer is a highly respected sportswriter out of the Nashville area. He has covered SEC events and Division I athletic competition for several years. Climer compiled what he terms the “purely subjective” list of the top 25 college coaches in Tennessee for *The Ledger*, but all the top-named associated with athletics in Tennessee are listed. Lee’s head baseball coach, Mark Brew, who is No. 19 on the list, is surrounded by outstanding coaches, including Vanderbilt’s baseball coach, Tim Corbin; Tennessee’s football coach, Butch Jones; Belmont’s Rick Byrd; and Memphis’s new basketball coach, Tubby Smith.



## Ben Holland’s “Top 10 Award”

The Lee first baseman was a business administration major and graduated with a 3.6 overall GPA. Holland earned 2016 Gulf South Conference Player of the Year honors this season after hitting .424 with 23 doubles, 18 homeruns, and 54 runs batted in. He ranked fifth in all of NCAA Division II with a .859 slugging percentage and 10th with a .533 on-base percentage. He also topped the GSC in homeruns and total bases (175), was second in batting average and doubles, third in RBI and total walks (38), and fourth in total hits (75).

# Baseball Team Raises \$8,500 for Veterans Cemetery



Coach Mark Brew presented Lt. Col. (ret.) Kim Dees and Sid Heidel with an \$8,500 check for repair, renovation, operation, and maintenance of the community’s Veterans Cemetery. The Veterans Organization is coordinating the improvement project at the cemetery through Bradley County Veterans Affairs Officer Joe Davis. Cemetery

caretaker is Robert Goins, assisted by his brother, Paul Goins. Brew said he is honored to have been part of this annual fundraiser. “I have been honored to watch it grow over the past four years,” he said. “I have met some amazing service men and women during that time and to be able to honor them is a truly humbling experience.”

TRAINING

## Rowland Is New Strength Coach



Rowland

Lee University Athletic Director Larry Carpenter has named Garrett Ballard Rowland as the department’s first full-time strength coach. Rowland holds a Bachelor of Science degree in exercise science from the University of Mississippi and a Master of Science degree in exercise sciences and a community health specialization in physical education/teacher education from the University of West Florida (Pensacola, Fla.) He worked from July of 2014 through this past spring as strength and conditioning graduate assistant at the University of West Florida. While at Ole Miss, he served as a strength and conditioning administrative intern, and before deciding to go after his Master’s degree at West Florida, he was a strength and conditioning assistant at Missouri Southern State University. The Memphis native also did strength and conditioning intern duties at the University of Memphis and Ole Miss. “We are excited to welcome Garrett as our first full-time strength and conditioning coach,” said Carpenter. “We contracted the services for several years and had success, but we felt with our move to NCAA Division II, it was time to bring someone on board to further enhance our program.” “I’ve been impressed with the play of Lee athletic teams in a league with several longtime, established powers,” Rowland commented. “I’ve worked at the DI and D2 levels, and I believe that will allow me to bring new and exciting programs to all the athletes.”





Marty Smith is executive vice president and chief operating officer of Quorum Health.

# MARTY SMITH ON THE RISE

The 1989 graduate combined his communications degree with an MBA to climb the ranks in corporate healthcare.

by CAMERON FISHER

**M**arty Smith credits the foundation developed in his undergraduate work to communicate either through written or oral presentation as a primary key to growth and development throughout his career in the healthcare industry.

"I started my sophomore year at University of Tennessee-Chattanooga because I thought I needed to be at a bigger school to enhance my future career opportunities," Marty stated. "That particular year, UTC started a week earlier than Lee. After one week of classes, I knew Lee was where I wanted to be and where I was supposed to be. I figured out it wasn't the size of the school that made the difference, it was what you personally invested in the experience that mattered the most."

"I value my relationship with a number of faculty members at Lee, including Dr. Bill George and Barry Melton. But the head of the Communications Department at the time and my advisor, Dr. Kathaleen Reid, had a real impact on me. She was a major encouragement throughout my time at Lee, and she really helped me make some key decisions as I approached graduation and my first job."

That first job was working as a news and sports writer and producer for WRCB-TV in Chattanooga. That first opportunity was a direct result of a Lee internship.



Marty and his wife, Jennifer, and their sons are avid University of Tennessee fans.

"Working in live TV taught me a lot about managing pressure situations and hitting deadlines. I learned you have to stay calm under pressure; if you don't, it can cause a chain reaction of bad events." After almost two years in TV news, Marty went back to school to get his MBA.

Marty and his wife, Jennifer, a former broadcaster at WRCB, and their two teenage sons, have spent the last ten years in Nashville. But before Nashville, the family lived through multiple advancement opportunities in Alabama, Florida, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Pennsylvania,

Then, he went to Nashville to take on a multi-hospital responsibility at the corporate office. As a hospital CEO for CHS, he was recognized for "outstanding performance" seven years before moving to the corporate office as a vice president of Operations.



Marty Smith, fourth from left, was present with his colleagues on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange to ring the bell the day Quorum Health went public.

After graduate school, he received his first chance to work in a hospital located in Gadsden, Alabama. Using his background in communication and public relations, he began to understand the business of operating a hospital and the relationships between staff and physicians that are needed to take care of patients. He has now been in the industry more than 25 years and never really thought of leaving.

and back to Tennessee.

Marty, who is the 2001 recipient of Lee's Distinguished Alumnus Award, started as a hospital CEO for Community Health Systems (CHS) in Cleveland, Tenn.

"I was 30 years old when I got my first opportunity to run my own hospital," Marty explained. "Those five years spent in Cleveland were perhaps the most fun I have had in healthcare. The relationships my family and I formed with hospital staff, physicians, and people throughout Bradley County are still very important to us."

From Cleveland, he moved to Philadelphia to run a larger facility.

In 2008, Marty was promoted to division president at CHS and named an officer of the Fortune 500 Company. He had responsibility for more than 30 hospitals in multiple states with about 15,000 employees and total revenues of approximately \$3 billion. There are now 18 hospitals in the state under the banner of "Tennova Healthcare," including the hospital in Cleveland. In two years, Marty and his team worked to build this network that employs more than 9,000 people across the state. The network also has a famous spokesperson—Peyton Manning.





Marty and his wife, Jennifer, outside the New York Stock Exchange on the day Quorum Health went public.



NYSE: **QHC**

Earlier this year, on April 29, 2016, Quorum Health launched, and Marty was named executive vice president and chief operating officer. In speaking of his new assignment, Marty said, "I wanted the opportunity to help mold and build Quorum to serve the communities we are now part of across the country." Previously, he had worked with only two other healthcare companies. He was part of CHS for 18 years.

In the press release announcing his promotion to Quorum Health, CHS CEO Wayne Smith said, "Marty is highly regarded by our hospital leadership teams, physicians, and employees." Marty said when he read that, he thought, *Wow, that's really what it is all about...* "I treasure all those relationships for sure." Through his time with Community Health, the company grew from 40 hospitals to over 200.

Quorum had the opportunity to ring the opening bell at the New York Stock Exchange on June 24, the morning after the so-called, "Brexit" vote in Great Britain.

"The eyes of the world were on us that morning, not because of anything we had done, but because of the Brexit Vote," Marty recalled. "The world wanted to see how the markets would respond, and the NYSE said it would be one of the most watched days in history. I had friends from all over message me that they saw the video."

The Smiths have endowed a scholarship at Lee in honor of his grandparents, Dewey and Peggy Coomer.


"My grandparents were a key reason why I was able to go to Lee, and to have others benefit from that scholarship means a lot. Before my grandmother passed away in 2015, she enjoyed reading the letters from young people that received the financial assistance."

Marty says any level of professional success is always about the relationships, but for him, it's been relationships with family and friends that support him every day.

"Relationships with mentors that believe in me and relationships with the talented people I work with make things happen. But, ultimately, I know it has been about a relationship with the Lord who has orchestrated all these influences. There's absolutely no way I could have done it on my own."



### 1980s

 **GREGG STROUD '81** and his wife, Dianne, recently released their book, *Funny Emails You Should Have Kept, But Didn't*. Gregg, who is chief executive officer of Fair Camelot, LLC, is pleased to say his pastor and his mother can both read all 400 pages of humor and not take offense at any of the content. Gregg and Dianne live in their historic home in Camden, S.C., close to their seven grandchildren. They are both active in leadership at Shandon Baptist Church, Columbia, S.C.

**WENDELL SWEETON '82** lives in Whitwell, Tenn. and is retired from the Marion and Hamilton County school systems. Wendell says, "I am volunteering at the local food



Stroud

bank and homeless shelter, enjoying lifelong experiences learned at Lee." Wendell holds a M.Ed. degree from Middle Tennessee State.

**HUGH HALE '83** moved back to Tennessee in May where he assumed the post of chief information officer for the State of Tennessee Health Care Finance and Administration Office. He and his wife, **LAURA RILEY HALE '83**, spent the previous several years living in New York City where Hugh was in a similar post with Visiting Nurse Service of New York. The Hales now live in downtown Nashville. They have four grown children and one granddaughter.

**SANDRA SMITH FALAGAN '84** passed away in May after a two-month struggle with leukemia. She had been living for the past year in Okinawa, Japan, with her husband, **LANCE FALAGAN, '84** and had spent her life as a missionary. Her life was celebrated at a May 21 ceremony at the Sanctuary Church in Deland, Florida. A GoFundMe page has been established in her honor to raise funds to build a youth center in Mongolia.

 **BOB RODGERS '86** became the fourth president of Richmond Graduate University in 2012, taking over the school that focuses on Christian-based counseling and ministry. He was the chief fundraiser for the school's new \$2.3 million Atlanta campus and also launched university-sponsored trauma centers in Chattanooga and Atlanta. Prior to Rodgers' appointment as president, he was a Richmond board member and executive vice president. He is the chairman of the Freedom Coalition, a collaborative initiative that aims to halt global human trafficking. This month, a faith-based organization in Atlanta called Street Grace elected Rodgers to be its president and chief executive officer. Street Grace is a network of community, business, and church leaders who want to end domestic minor sex trafficking.


### 1990s

**MONICA PARRIS '95** has returned to Greenwood (Tennessee) Christian



Rodgers

School as a third-grade teacher and assistant principal. The position was created to help facilitate the growth the school has been experiencing over the last couple of years. There were 353 students at the end of this school year, and it has already grown to 375 students for the upcoming school year. Previously at Greenwood, Monica was a fourth-grade teacher, but left six years ago to work as the director of children's ministry at New Covenant Church.

 **JOE GIOVE '95** is director of Coal Business Operations in the Office of Fossil Energy for the U.S. Department of Energy in Washington, D.C. His travels take him across the country and in the company of many VIPs. Here, he



Giove

poses with *Torch* and Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam.

**JAVIER A. CHAVEZ '98** is the Latin America International Missions



WHO’S WHERE?

director for World Challenge, Inc. Previously, he was a missionary church planter and pastor in Lima, Peru, from 2001 until 2014. He holds a Ph.D. in intercultural studies from Biola University and a master’s degree from Wheaton College Graduate School. He and his wife, Noelia, live in Lula, Ga., and have four children.

2000s

 **TYNER BROOKS ‘05** has been named the new executive director of Morning Pointe Assisted Living and Memory Care community in Brentwood, Tenn. The Augusta, Ga., native has worked in the senior living industry for more than four years. In 2012, he became the general manager at Hickory Valley Independent and Assisted Living. He later joined the Five Star Quality Care team, working as executive director at Williamsburg Villas Assisted Living and Memory Care. He and his wife, **TIFFANY SAWYER BROOKS ‘08** have one daughter.



Brooks

Kirkland, Frazier, Johnston, Wilson



**BRICE JONES ‘09** holds a master’s degree from Yale and a Ph.D. in New Testament and early Christianity from Concordia. He recently published his doctoral dissertation on ancient biblical manuscripts, and it has picked up media attention. He was also cited in *The New York Times*, among other national media outlets, regarding his work in ancient manuscripts. He is currently the assistant director of Media Relations at the University of Louisiana Monroe. Brice says, “My wife (**MEGHAN ‘09**) and I miss Lee very much. We hope to call Cleveland our home one day; we’re just still looking for a way to get there!”

 **BRANDON KIRKLAND ‘03, RACHEL WIELFAERT FRAZIER ‘04, and JOSHUA JOHNSTON ‘00**, teachers at Lenoir City High School in Tennessee “pass the *Torch*” to 2016 Lenoir

City High School graduate and new Lee University freshman **SYDNEY WILSON ‘20**.

**KEVIN TAN ‘14** is a filmmaker and actor. He recently wrote his first original screenplay titled *Moments Before* and completed filming earlier this year in Athens, Ga. *Moments Before* is a short film that seeks to capture the raw emotions of how people act and feel on either end of a relationship.

**ASHLYN POPLIN ‘16** is the new communications coordinator at Hiwassee College in Madisonville, Tenn. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in communications with an emphasis in public relations and also holds a social media certification. The position at Hiwassee was slated to be a director of marketing, but it evolved into a communication coordinator position when Poplin’s skills were evaluated.



She didn’t come to Lee with alumni support, but it’s the reason she’ll be able to finish.

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Who’s Where remains a popular section of *Torch*, but we need an infusion of up-dates! Submitting an update is easier than ever, including photos!

- The easiest way:
1. Visit [www.leeuniversity.edu/alumni](http://www.leeuniversity.edu/alumni) and click on the alumni and partners link.
  2. Click **Torch**.
  3. Click the **Who’s Where Update** option.

If you prefer an update via postal mail, please mail your entry to:

Lee University Alumni Office  
P.O. Box 3450  
Cleveland, TN 37320-3450

On all entries, please include the `last year you were a student at Lee.





# What Do You Dream?

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