

LEE & UNIVERSITY

TORCH

SPRING 2009



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

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Kelly Bridgeman, Michelle Bollman, Brian Conn, Paul Conn, Rebekah Eble, Cameron Fisher, Whitney Hemphill, Harrison Keely, Christie Kleinmann, Ryan McDermott, George Starr, Joyanna Weber.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Brian Conn, Cameron Fisher, Whitney Hemphill, Andrew Millar, George Starr, Sherry Vincent, Mike Wesson.

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

LEE UNIVERSITY
P.O. Box 3450
1120 North Ocoee Street,
Cleveland, TN 37320-3450.
1-800-LEE-9930
423-614-8000
www.leeuniversity.edu
torch@leeuniversity.edu

ON THE COVER

Lee students enjoy
the spring weather.

LEE UNIVERSITY TORCH

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OPENING THOUGHTS

from President Paul Conn

He Broke the Mold!

As the old saying goes, after God finished making John D. Nichols, He broke the mold!

Dr. Nichols is truly one-of-a-kind. He is one of the most remarkable individuals I have ever met. He served for six years as the connective link between the college and the Church of God denomination—not just any six years, but six years that were among the most crucial years in our history. He had a profound impact on what Lee has become today.

I was reminded of all this a couple of weeks ago, when I had a long telephone conversation with Dr. Nichols. The occasion for the call was to inform him that Lee is naming an important new scholarship for him. We are establishing a scholarship for transfer students—those who start somewhere else, then decide Lee is the place they want to be. It will be called the John Nichols Scholarship, and I was calling to tell him we wanted to honor him in that way.

John's path of leadership in Lee University history surprised everyone, I think—even him. He was not a college graduate, and in the early years of his ministry, he was not identified with educational concerns. He was an evangelist and a pastor—passionate, bold, outspoken, the kind of preacher who poured himself energetically into every sermon, every camp meeting, every new church plant. But somewhere along the way, he gained a strong appreciation for the many ways education could serve the church. So soon after he was elected to the Church of God's five-man governing Executive Committee, he was assigned the job of giving oversight to the president of Lee College.

When I got the news of this assignment, in 1988, I didn't know what to expect of the relationship—nor, I suspect, did he. Little did I imagine that it would become one of the most important relationships of my life, and that John D. Nichols would become one of the true heroes of the Lee story. He brought all that legendary passion and personal firepower to the work we did together, and became a powerful ally for our cause. I learned to trust him, then to depend on him, and finally to love him. He made a huge difference to me and to Lee.

John D. Nichols is hard to typecast. He has such a huge heart, hooked up to an open and inquiring mind, it makes a unique package. In later years, he has turned all those gifts to the service of benevolent ministries in the Church of God and there, as at Lee, he is making a major impact. Years from now, if the Lord tarries, students will call themselves Nichols Scholars, and I only wish they could know, as I have known, the extraordinary man behind the name.

Dr. Nichols passed away on the morning of Friday, March 13, 2009 as this issue of Torch was going to press. He had fought a long battle with cancer.





LOIS UNDERWOOD BEACH
SCIENCE BUILDING



NUMBERED DAYS

Former science students offer their favorite memories of the 'soon-to-be history' science building at Lee University.

THE DAYS OF the Beach Science Building are numbered. The three-level, 44-year-old structure has outlived its usefulness and has a date with a wrecking ball sometime later this year. Its replacement is well underway, being built literally three feet away from its northeast corner.

The Lois Underwood Beach Science Building first welcomed Lee students in the fall of 1966 without a name except 'the new science building.' Its construction in 1965-66 was part of a multi-year campus expansion and improvement in the '60s which also included the demolition of the former Old Main structure (1963) which gave way to the current Higginbotham Administration Building (1964) and a new gymnasium (1965). At the time of its construction, the science offerings at Lee were housed in a cramped space and woefully inadequate, but this new building would boost a growing science and math program with modern equipment and larger facilities. Enrollment for fall 1965 was 897, up from 810 the year before, so the student body was on the rise. When the 22,666 square feet of new classroom space was unveiled, it was a welcome and long-anticipated addition.

Fast forward to a parallel situation on the Lee campus in 2009. The difference is the student body is over four times the 1966 figures. A much larger and sustained construction boom is ongoing and the science facilities are cramped and woefully inadequate. Like the Lee students of the mid-60s, today's students are anticipating the opening of a brand new science and math building, the first wing of which will be completed by this fall.

Named for Dr. Lois Beach in the 1990s, perhaps the most legendary science professor at Lee, the current science facility is three levels of classrooms, faculty offices and labs. On the basement level is Brown Auditorium, a 200+ seat lecture hall named for the Brown family of the

local Brown Stove Works. Site of much more than just science lectures through the years, the original seats in Brown have only been recovered once in its 43 years of use. In the labs, fixtures, including sinks, cabinetry, gas valves and much of the visual and technical equipment, are original. There is no student lounge or commons area, as the original Ocoee Street front entrance has long been closed in favor of providing more faculty offices. The number of restroom stalls reflects building codes of the era in which it was built. The same for handicap access, as there are two sets of stairs, but no elevator, therefore





access is limited to one level. Although still an attractive structure from the outside, the Beach Building is clearly showing its age with cracking mortar and fascia, as well as peeling paint and loose fixtures.

No matter how much improved the science and math program will be upon completion of the new complex, there will always be memories of the past. Virtually every Lee student since 1966 has had a class or meeting in the building. However, it is the science grads for whom the Beach Building holds prominent memories and it was from this niche of Lee alumni *Torch* solicited favorite recollections. The following is a sampling of what was received:

* * * * *

■ My freshman year we had our chemistry class in the basement of one the women's dormitories. The next year we moved into the new science building with tremendous excitement and pride. I can't think about the building without thinking about the people who made it such a special place. In my two dozen years of formal education no one had more impact on my life than Dr. Beach—she is a rare treasure. I still talk about the Science and the Bible class with Dr. O'Bannon, who later performed my wedding ceremony. Our Upsilon meetings were held there and some of us formed a Circle K club in that building. —*Jim Baskett '69*

■ There used to be these awfully ugly, but wonderfully comfy retro ORANGE lounge chairs. These chairs were a well-sought-after commodity in between classes; the proof being the well-formed depressions. The graduating class of 2006 almost went into revolt due the orange chair

deaths. Post-mortem replacements were seemingly innocent and an "eye-appealing" maroon, but were in fact depressingly stiff office chairs. Witnesses say they were often seen empty. —*Richane Johnson '06, 08M*

■ One day in chemistry lab, a classmate had an accidental spill of a chemical reagent on her leg. This was back in the day when girls wore skirts, hose, and heels to class! I'm not sure if it was acid, but I remember that it quickly started to eat away at her panty hose. I will never forget Dr. McPherson picking her up, and dousing her in the emergency shower. He was there to save the day! It was quite entertaining! —*Twyla Daugherty Green '82*

■ In addition to spending countless hours in that building studying, I also spent many a Thursday night worshipping with PFC (Pioneers for Christ). The collection of all my worshipping experiences in that building with PFC will be with me forever. —*Scott Sapoznick '03*

■ One morning after an Organic Chemistry test I had bombed, Sister Beach decided to ask me to stay after class to have a discussion with her. 'Mr. Cook, would you mind staying after class to speak with me a moment?' This was the longest class of my life. Finally, after class, in only the way she could, she scolded me in her motherly way by telling me, 'I've noticed, Mr. Cook, you are not doing your best in this class—is this correct, Mr. Cook, are you doing your best?' She said this as she looked through me shaking her head back and forth. Then she laughed in the way that only science majors know as if to say my days were numbered in her class. At the end of the semester after taking final exams, I was relieved and





grateful she scared me to death earlier in the semester. That 'A-' was nothing I earned on my own ... it was pure, unadulterated fear of disappointing Sister Beach. We all loved and respected her that much. —*Bryan Cook '87*

■ Freshman year, Chemistry 101 with Dr. McPherson and his opening comments: 'Students that sit in the first row, generally get A's, second row, B's and so on...' Needless to say, this college student sat in the front part of the classroom. My second memory came in one of Mr. Griffith's math classes. I had never experienced 'pitch black darkness' until one day the electricity went out. The third memory was in a Psychology class with Dr. Paul Conn. After being asked several questions in class one day, *I thought, I'm not sitting in this seat tomorrow.* However, his words in one lecture have stuck with me: 'Don't ever tell a child to behave. He is, just simply not in the manner you would like.' —*Janese Bruins Swift '83*

■ The thing I remember most about being a science major at Lee was how we were like family and the science building was our home. We would be there for hours participating in labs and classes. The faculty was wonderful. Dr. O'Bannon could always be counted on for injecting some odd but humorous story; Dr. McPherson was as caring as he was knowledgeable; Sister Beach was wonderful, always encouraging. One day the gears on my car wouldn't shift. I was taking Physics with Mr. Harris and he overheard me discussing it with some classmates. He told me he thought the gears had frozen. That afternoon he stopped by and checked the car himself. He crawled under my car, whacked it with a hammer a couple of times, got in to test drive rather than put me in danger

and fixed my car. I was one grateful college student. I am still grateful. —*Carmen Gibson Roberts '85*

■ I have many fond memories of the science building, but none more endearing to me than Lois Beach. She was a great woman of God that gave of herself not only to me but all her students. She gave me the confidence to make it and achieve goals that were only a passing thought at the time. —*Steve Madison '79*

■ Long before Tennessee enacted the Road Kill Law, Dr. O'Bannon would pick-up dead animals along the highway to bring to his Anatomy and Physiology classes for dissection. Many times, the odor would be unbearable. —*Mickey Moore '73, Director of Health Services*

■ I recall a very large glass-enclosed cage used to display various live animals that could be viewed by students that came in that hallway. At the time, a Lee student who owned a 6-8 foot red-tail boa, was allowed to house the snake in the cage for the benefit of the student body. Like any animal, it needed to be fed. Towards the end of my freshman year, Dr. Robert O'Bannon brought a little drama into the next feeding. He decided to allow it to track down its prey: a small white rabbit. Word got out about this out-of-cage floor feeding and the gathering of students grew large. Students were amazed, some were scared for the rabbit and others were excited for the snake. Eventually the snake trapped the rabbit in the long hallway and the dramatic chase came to the expected ending. There was cheering, screaming, and even crying for the rabbit, but all the while Dr. O'Bannon expressed that this was a natural process. —*Jeff Hulstein '94*





■ During a Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy course, taught by John Hisey, we conducted a great deal of dissection on numerous animals including sharks, cats, lamprey, and others. The course was great, but the odor wasn't. Unfortunately, the pungent smell associated with these animals and their preservatives spread easily throughout the main floor. To overcome the distraction this created for other classes, we tried to create a breeze by opening the Beach Building front door and placing a box fan in a window across the room. Although students began using a different entrance, they could breathe a little easier once they got to their classrooms. —Christopher Camp '06



■ Dr. O' Bannon offered me extra credit if I had a baby during my semester of Embryology...and told everyone else they would fail if they had babies (I was the only married student in the class!) I remember very vividly having literal nightmares about my fruit flies escaping (for Genetics class) and having to carry them all around in a little basket with a bottle of flynap ready to tally my offspring should they hatch while I was out and about and attending other classes. —Lori Southard-Funderburk '9

■ The kind smell of formaldehyde;
Bright, magnified microscope lights;
Tall, cold, granite countertops;
Dr. Beach's encouraging smile.

—Edgar Emeric '87

■ Every year we would watch a safety video reminding students to be careful and not 'horse around' with the flint fire starters. A week after watching this video one of the students thought he had a dead flint so he called me over to his station and began striking it claiming he was 'horsing around' like the video warned against and was going to set the lab on fire. Unfortunately, the flint was not completely dead and when he struck it next to me it caught my sweater on fire. The flames quickly engulfed all the loose particles on my sweater which made it look a lot worse than it actually was. The students started screaming, Dr. DeLaLuz came running, and the fire blanket was ripped off the wall. Needless to say everything was fine but I'm sure I will always be the example of what can





happen when you 'horse around' in the lab During one of the 'Ask Dr. Conn' chapels I submitted a question asking 'Why can't the Beach Building have a coke machine?' At the time the closest machine was in Hughes Hall. Dr. Conn agreed and that Coke machine is still there today. —*Joni McCullar Criswell '00*

■ I had missed a lab and Bill Simmons was the lab assistant to Dr. O'Bannon. Dr. O assigned Bill to help me recreate the lab. It required the use of a huge beaker, so Bill went to Dr. Lois Beach's lab area and 'borrowed' her prized giant-size beaker. I heard an exchange between Dr. O and Bill while I was waiting outside the office in the lab that went similar to this:

Dr. O: 'That's Dr. Beach's favorite beaker.'

Bill: 'I know.'

Dr. O: 'Don't do anything to it, or you'll be in trouble.'

Bill: 'I'll be careful.'

Bill and I proceeded to set up the lab which required heating water in the giant beaker. As I watched the bubbles rise and the steam grow, I slowly realized that I saw no Pyrex triangle on the beaker.

'Me: 'Bill, there's no Pyrex symbol on the beaker.'

Bill: 'Oh. Really? Well...it'll be OK.'

Me: 'Bill, it looks like it's getting very hot. Are you sure this beaker is heat-proof?'

Bill: 'Oh, I'm sure it's OK--'

A sudden catastrophic shattering of Dr. Beach's favorite giant beaker interrupted him. Glass and water exploded

everywhere. In the stunned silence that ensued, I heard Dr. O'Bannon chuckling in his office...then he said calmly: 'Bill, you're in trouble now.' —*Dee Thompson Yoder '80*

■ My favorite memories of the Old Science building are definitely PFC meetings, which was an awesome time of on-fire Christians ready to worship and be the hands and feet of Jesus! Also Chemistry classes with Dr. Mauldin and Dr. Delaluz were great classes; wonderful, kind professors who were great at teaching. —*Lena Graham, '00*

■ I remember living in the science labs studying with other science majors until we had to return to the dorms near midnight; some would be eating supper with their books open on the lab tables I remember when we had revival for weeks. Raymond Culpepper led the meetings at night in the Brown Auditorium I remember Dr. O'Bannon's Science and the Bible lectures with the Scope Trials re-enactment. —*Crystal Walker '74*

■ I'll never forget Chemistry lab my freshman year in 1992. A new-found friend admittedly asked me to be her lab partner because she figured that I could do the experiment while she wrote everything down. On one occasion she assisted and managed to break a thermometer! After three years of studying together in the science building, that lab partner became my partner for life. The Beach Science Building was 'home away from home' and we will always cherish our time there. —*Adam '96 and Tina Knowles Tripp '95* 🍷



New Buildings, New Openings

THE OPENING of the new School of Religion building last fall created a domino effect for faculty offices, allowing approximately two dozen faculty to sport new offices by the beginning of the spring semester. With the consolidation of the religion faculty to the new building, their former offices in the Vest

Building were freed up, giving nearly an entire floor to accommodate the English and Modern Foreign Languages Department (EMFL).

The Vest Building was remodeled over 20 years ago, transforming its three levels from the former library into a classroom and office building. Since its 1988 unveiling,

the Vest Building has remained virtually unchanged accommodating faculty from both Religion and EMFL. As both disciplines expanded faculties over the years, their members have been scattered across campus. Students often had difficulty finding faculty offices. The exodus of the Religion faculty to their new facility has allowed for virtually all of EMFL to call the Vest Building home.

Another significant change to Vest is the transition of the Edna Minor Conn Lecture Hall on the third floor to a black box theater. Small alterations to the room included raising the lowest level to allow for more staging, installation of technical equipment and additional lighting and, of course, painting the walls black. The 200-seat hall will still accommodate classes when not being used for drama productions.



Emanuel Okenye and Julie Gibson rehearse for "My Children! My Africa!," the first production in the newly re-christened Edna Minor Conn Theater.

Science and Math Complex on Schedule

THE LANDSCAPE changes daily as crews work toward a fall 2009 completion of the east wing of a new 73,000-square-foot science and math complex.

Dominating the skyline is the five-story entrance commons which is taking shape at the northwest corner of the front campus. Contractor Tri-Con recently topped the highest point of the structure with an American flag, a point which can be seen for several blocks. Scaffolding is wrapped around the entire structure, while

most of brick and mortar work has been completed and crews have even begun the first coats of interior painting.

The schedule for the complex includes completion of the first, and largest, wing for occupancy by this fall. It will contain classrooms, labs and faculty offices, as well as a por-

tion of the expansive 5,000-square-foot lobby and commons area. Sometime this summer the current Beach Science Building will be vacated and razed to make way for the wing which will parallel Ocoee Street at the site of the current building. Full occupancy of the complex is slated for the fall of 2010.





Lee on Service Honor Roll for Third Year

THE PRESIDENT'S Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, launched in 2006, recognizes colleges and universities nationwide that support innovative and effective community service and service-learning programs. The Honor Roll is a program of the Corporation for National and Community Service and is sponsored by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, the USA Freedom Corps, and the U.S. Departments of Education and Housing and Urban Development.

Lee University, for the third consecutive year, was listed on the honor roll with distinction. Only 83 institutions were on this list, while 547 were on the basic honor roll this year. Six institutions received the Presidential Award, the highest level of recognition. Last year, there were six Presidential Award winners, 127 recognized

with distinction, and 391 acknowledged on the basic honor roll.

Only three other Tennessee schools were on the honor roll with distinction and included East Tennessee State University, Lipscomb University and Rhodes College.

In terms of consistent, long-term recognition, Lee University is one of only 26 institutions listed on the honor roll with distinction for the three years since the inception of the awards. Some of the other schools include such well-known institutions DePaul, Duke, Georgetown, Michigan State, Stanford, Stetson, Syracuse, Tulane and the universities of Michigan, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Wisconsin.

Selection factors for the award are:

- Reviewer evaluations of the scope, innovativeness, and evidence of effectiveness of the service projects described in the application.

- Percentage of total student enrollment engaged in community service activities.

- Percentage of total student enrollment engaged in at least 20 hours of community service per semester.

- Percentage of total student enrollment engaged in academic service-learning courses.

- Extent to which the institution offers academic service-learning courses.

- Whether the institution requires academic service-learning as part of the core curriculum of at least one major.

- Whether the institution rewards the use of academic service-learning through faculty promotion and tenure decisions, or other means.

- The institution's latest Federal Work-Study community service participation rate, as reported by the U.S. Department of Education.

- Whether community service or service-learning is cited in the institution's mission statement or strategic plan.

- Whether the institution supports at least one full-time staff member as a coordinator of student community service or service-learning activities.

- Whether the institution provides scholarships or other financial rewards for community service, such as "matching" of the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award.

- The ratio of alumni who are current AmeriCorps members to total current enrollment.

- The ratio of institutional alumni who are current Peace Corps members to total current enrollment.

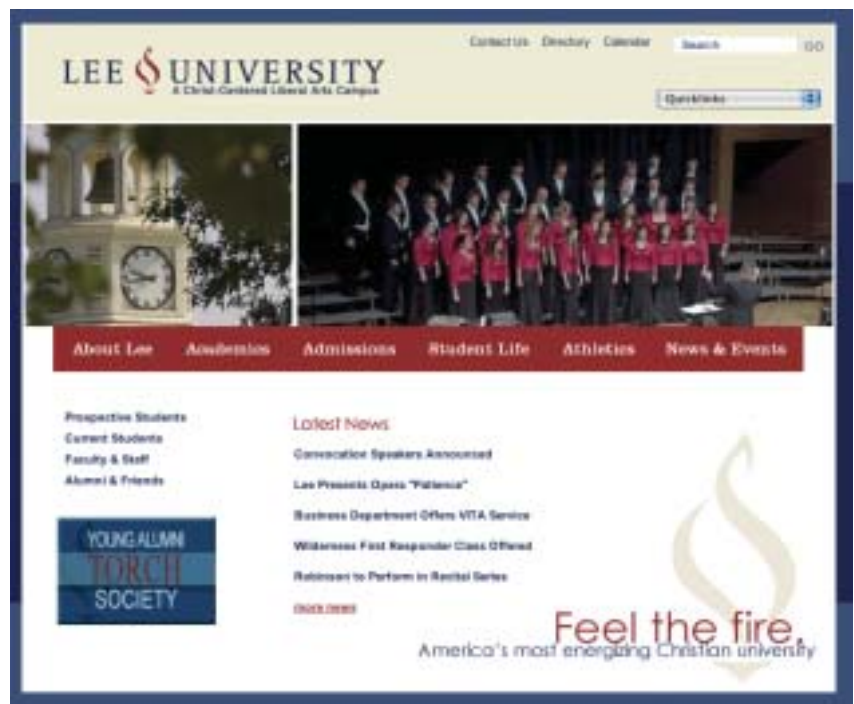
Additional information on the awards can be found at www.learnandserve.gov.

Lee Web Site Redesign Launched

A MAJOR REDESIGN to Lee University's Web site was launched on January 26, 2009. In addition to a brand new look, the site now makes it possible for alumni, faculty and staff, as well as students to easily create personalized user accounts. The new site also makes it easier for departments to update their own pages, according to programmer analyst Breanna Gray.

"It's a completely different look, but it's going to be really nice," Gray said. A senior at Lee, Gray is the project manager for a team of four student workers responsible for the transition from the site's previous design to the new system.

"It's a long process; we've got about 7,500 Web pages on the site," said Nate Tucker, associate director of Information Systems & Technology (IS&T). "[Now] it will be easier to maintain. Upgrading the site required a manual update to all 7,500 pages, unlike the new system, which will allow for a redesigned look to be easily added across the entire site," Tucker said.



"The first thing you will notice is a cleaner, much more visually appealing look and feel," said Craig Gray, director of IS&T. "Navigation of the Web site has been significantly simplified with fewer options presented on the page that direct the user to areas of specific interest." Pages include an integrated search

bar in the top right corner and a new navigation system.

"The Web development team was focused on making the site better rather than just keeping it up to date," Tucker continued. "We'll have time to focus on improving rather than just on maintaining." —Harrison Keely



185 Receive Diplomas in December

WINTER COMMENCEMENT was held on December 12-13 with a total of 185 students receiving diplomas in ceremonies held at Conn Center. Of the figure 26 of the graduates received masters degrees.

Students took the stage on a Friday night commissioning service, while Rev. David Fisher of

Plymouth Church in Brooklyn, N.Y. addressed the graduates during commencement on Saturday. Fisher has been a parish pastor for 38 years. He has served suburban and urban congregations in Minneapolis and Boston and in 2004, Plymouth Church called him to serve as its 10th "Settled Minister."

Fisher has served as Instructor of New Testament at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and as adjunct professor of New Testament at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

Lee Explores Songbook Publication

IN AN EFFORT to capture a small part of Lee University's history, officials at Lee are proceeding with publication of a Lee University Songbook. Dr. Walt Mauldin, vice president for Student Life, is spearheading the project and is asking faculty, staff, students and alumni to recommend specific song titles that have proven significant in the life of the campus community since 1918.

"Perhaps it was a song that was performed by an ensemble, a club, or was part of a chapel worship experience," Mauldin said. "There have also been theme songs for capital campaigns that have become a part of the campus lore." A few examples: Lee's alma mater, the *Doxology*, *Bind Us Together*, *Higher Ground*, *Hallelujah!*, *Beyond the Open Door*, *To God Be the Glory*, *Carry the Torch* and *Press On*. Mauldin also noted that a part of the project includes the prospect of a new Lee University alma mater. "Do you remember other song titles that represent the university's heritage?" Mauldin asks. "These can include songs from B.T.S., Lee College, and Lee University. If so, we want to hear your recommendations; all that is needed is the title."

A Web site has been established at www.leesongbook.com which will provide additional information. E-mail inquiries can be directed to Jason Vawter at jvawte02@leeu.edu or through the Lee InCircle group devoted to the project.

General oversight of the project is being sponsored by Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Sigma Alpha Iota, the School of Music and the Office of Student Life.

FACULTY FACTS



McClung Changes Minds and Rooms

Lee University Assistant Professor of Education **Dr. Trish McClung** is leading a three-year investigation to measure the effects of service learning in classrooms for students with autism. The study, *Changing Minds and Rooms*, aims to discover if service-learning changes students' perception about their ability to deal with certain classroom situations.

Now in its second year, the first year of the study consisted of gathering 40 service-learning reflections from students participating in the Lee University Developmental Inclusion Classroom (LUDIC), which serves area children with autism, or other special needs classrooms. From these papers, the researchers narrowed their search and set the foundation for their research.

The second phase, currently in progress, has focused in on the pre- and post-perceptions of the students who completed the service learning. This part of the study hopes to examine what the students were feeling before they entered LUDIC and then how the service changed their perspectives.

The last phase will consist of a quantitative scale which the students will fill out about their service-learning. It will consist of questions about the student's fear, anxiety, etc., and hopes to create numerical data which can be used to determine the effects of service learning.

"We are trying to determine if service-learning changes student's feelings about how they can cope with certain situations in the classroom," said McClung, "What affect does service learning have on our students?"—*Rebekah Eble*



Brown Publishes Article About Scholarship

Associate Professor of English **Dr. Kevin Brown's** article, "Writing What I Want in a Publish-or-Perish World" was recently published in *Academe*, the publication of the American Association of University Professors. In his article, he points out that the idea of scholarship, even at research schools, is not accurately represented, as a few superstar publishers account for most of the output.

Brown also reminds readers that not all universities and colleges function on the publish-or-perish model, but that there are schools like Lee that focus on teaching. Because of this focus, professors at such institutions are free to write whatever they like, regardless of how long a project might take, and that work will still be appreciated.



Henley Promotes Language Cafés

Associate Professor of German **Dr. Grant Henley** recently delivered a presentation, "The Language Café Experience—Creating Intercultural Communicative Opportunities for the Foreign Language Curriculum," at the Tennessee Foreign Language Teaching Association Annual Conference in Nashville.

The presentation aimed to educate fellow teachers on how to transform common language labs into a language café experience. These labs have been implemented throughout the foreign language department at Lee University. The Language Café is a place which supports intercultural communication between students learning a specific foreign language and native speakers of that language. Each café is comprised of students in foreign language classes and a native speaker of the target language. —*Rebekah Eble*

■ DEPARTMENTAL FOCUS

Communications Focuses on Service *and* Learning

By Dr. Christie M. Kleinmann

MANY UNIVERSITIES base their success on graduation rates, faculty academic achievements or student grade point averages. And in these traditional areas, the department of Communication and the Arts is impressive.

But you and I both know that Lee isn't a normal university, and the department of Communication and the Arts isn't your typical department. We believe it more important to talk about people rather than nameless majors. We believe it more important to discuss the fusion of faith, service and study rather than achievements.

We are the department of Communication and the Arts.

Lee University requires undergraduate students to complete 80 hours of service learning during their undergraduate tenure. The department of Communication and the Arts has taken this requirement and infused it across its curriculum, developing a learning environment that extends beyond classroom walls and builds relational intersections between students and our community.

■ Transforming our community nonprofit agencies

Public relations has always benefitted from a client-based approach to prepare students for a

professional career. The addition of the public relations major this fall, however, has provided a broader platform for service-learning partnerships. According to Dr. Patty Silverman, these partnerships give public relations students the opportunity to apply the skills learned in the classroom to real world public relations situations. In return, nonprofit agencies benefit from public relations counsel. For example, one public relations student group partnered with New Hope Pregnancy Care Center to assess their public relations needs and develop public relations materials to meet these needs. Students developed a brochure and a newsletter, in both English and Spanish, and several news releases to target an audience that New Hope had previously been unable to reach.

"Our client-based service learning projects cultivate amazing partnerships in the community," said Dr. Michael J. Laney, department chair of Communication and the Arts. "These partnerships bring mutual benefit for both students and community nonprofit entities that may not otherwise be attainable or affordable."

■ Transforming our community residents

Community residents are also being touched by service-learning initiatives. Communication and telecommunications seniors in Dr. Joel Kailing's capstone classes worked with Bradley Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center to chronicle the life stories of many of its residents in what was termed the



CyCy White (right) works on her speech with Lee student Kayce Addison



Dr. Megan Moe teaches public speaking to a local 4th grade class

Heritage Video Project. Student groups interviewed and videoed residents who told their personal stories and shared memories of life in Bradley County. Each story was chronicled as a personal memoir on a DVD, and a copy was given to each resident's family.

Service learning is not only for department seniors. Students at every level of the curriculum participate. For example, communication students in the traditional public speaking course put their newly learned public speaking skills into practice. Each fall, Dr. Megan Moe's freshman communication students conduct a public speaking workshop at Michigan Avenue Elementary. Last fall, more than 90 communication students presented a program on public speaking do's and don'ts to 4th graders and then volunteered as personal coaches for the elementary students. The workshop gave Lee students the opportunity to use their public speaking skills to help others.

Also this past fall, fifteen theatre students from Dr. Christine Williams' costume and make-up design class and technical director

Catherine Bradley's scene and set design class partnered with the oncology center at T.C. Thompson Children's Hospital. Children at the oncology center often spend long periods of time at the center, and these theatre students wanted to make the children's stay a little more enjoyable. Working with the center's child-life specialist, Lee students dedicated the entire semester to developing and building a puppet theater and designing and creating puppets for the children. A dragon, a horse, and a king are just some of the fairy tale puppets that children can now choose to play with while at the oncology center.

"The project not only benefited the children at the oncology center, but taught our students how theatre can be used in service," Laney said. "Our students learned that theatre is more than entertainment and can really make a difference in someone's life."

■ Transforming our community and beyond

The department of Communication and the Arts connects the unique strengths and abilities of

our students and faculty, classroom study and service to transform our community; yet, the department's influence isn't limited to the Cleveland/Bradley County area. For example, four telecommunications students produced a video for Faith on Wheels Racing. This Atlanta-based ministry combines faith and motorcycle racing and approached professor Mary Dukes' telecommunications students to produce a video about their program. The telecommunications students shot footage of a motorcycle race in Atlanta and developed a complete branding video for the group.

"Our department strives to do more than just pay lip service to the merits of service," Laney said. "We intentionally fuse faith and service into the learning experience, and it is exciting to be part of a department, and an institution like Lee University, that is committed to transforming students, alumni, our community and our world for the glory of God." 🙏

Dr. Christie M. Kleinmann, APR, is assistant professor of Communication/Public Relations

Alumni Giving Sets Record and Exceeds Goal in 2008

Lee University alumni and friends contributed **\$404,698** to the 2008 Annual Alumni Fund setting a new record and exceeding the campaign goal of \$400,000.

"Lee alumni continued to give generously in 2008 in spite of challenging economic times," according to Anita Ray, Director of Alumni Relations. Seventy-nine percent of individual contributions were gifts of \$500 or more, which came from President's Circle donors. Another significant milestone in 2008 was giving from Lee's youngest alumni donors ('00-'07) who upped their giving by 61%. Young Alumni Torch Society members contributed a record \$17,076 to the 2008 fund.

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Members of the Lee women's soccer team at the Tennessee State Hall of Fame Banquet: (l-r) Christina Chase, Jenna Achten, Jamie Achten, Kristen Carbine, Leigha Terry, Samantha Hare.

National Championship Brings Accolades

Since Coach Matt Yelton and his Lee women's soccer team walked away with the NAIA national championship last December, the honors continue to pour in.

WINNING AN NAIA national championship—the first for any Lee University athletic team—has brought a slew of recognition and honors which has extended beyond the southeast Tennessee and north Georgia region.

The top honor came at the annual banquet and introduction ceremony of the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame on February 20. The event, held at the Renaissance Hotel in Nashville, saw the Lady Flames join with the University of Tennessee Lady Volunteers and Bethel College as Tennessee teams being saluted for national championship accomplishments.

"It was a great honor to be recognized in this way," said Coach Yelton. "To be sharing the honor with the likes of Pat Summitt and the Lady Vols basketball team speaks volumes about the quality of this honor. It is always nice to be recognized in any way for having a successful season, but this honor is something that says the people of

Tennessee are appreciative of what we achieved this year."

On February 5 in Walker Arena during halftime of a basketball contest, another tribute was paid to Yelton and his team. Each member of the championship club was presented with a ring commemorating their accomplishments by Lee President Dr. Paul Conn and Athletic Director Larry Carpenter. The ceremony was highlighted by the hanging of the NAIA National Championship banner near the ceiling of the arena (see photo, page 2). It is the first banner of its kind to be hung in the arena and Yelton and his club hopes this is the beginning of many more for the athletic programs.

"I thought from day one that we had the potential to have a special team," said the coach as he shared thoughts of the tremendous season once more. "There was always a great deal of talent in this squad, but I felt like the key to our success this year was the work rate

and effort that the team put into what we were doing during practice. I believe that dealing with adversity brought our team closer together and propelled us to the success we were able to enjoy on the way to a national championship.

"I don't know that I have ever coached a group of players with the ability that our team had this year. I find it really difficult to fathom just how good our team really was. I say this simply because I can't think of many other teams that have the depth of players that we had at our disposal. There aren't many teams that can deal with injuries to two key players and still win a national title."

While most of the celebrations and the many accolades may be completed for a few months, the 2008 Lee University women's soccer team has left its mark, not only on the university's athletic program, but the entire state of Tennessee and the NAIA organization.

Women's Basketball Looking to Tournament Play

FOR THE THIRD straight season, Coach Marty Rowe has his Lee women's basketball team consistently ranked with the Top 10 teams in NAIA play. Headed toward Southern States Athletic Conference tournament action at Berry College, the Lady Flames were 19-4 and appeared poised for another SSAC title.

Three of Lee's four defeats came before December. Rowe's club lost to second-ranked Vanguard University during a California trip. The Lady Flames were upset by Langston (Okla.) and Southern Wesleyan. They quickly regrouped and posted a convincing victory over No. 1-ranked Union University on Dec. 13 and have now won 14 out of their last 15 starts.

Junior Katie Nelson is pointing toward an All-American season. The post player has recorded 10 double-doubles (points and rebounds) and is averaging 19

points per game (second best in conference and seventh in the nation). She also averages nine rebounds per game and shoots over 56 percent from the field. Sopho-

more Brooke McKinnon has been deadly at the free-throw stripe. She hits 87 percent from the line and ranks fifth in the nation.

The Lady Flames also have picked up superior play from senior guard Valerlya Musina. Coming off the bench, the transfer from Long Beach State is now averaging almost 15 points per game and has proved to be a deadly shooter from 3-point land, plus a steady rebounder. Coach Rowe finally has point-guard Allison Rader back at full strength and freshman guard Angela Spann has given Lee a huge lift on both ends of the floor. Add Lauren Brett, Kayce Addison and Kari Jo Harris to the mix and you see why the Lady Flames are firmly directing their path to another NAIA National Tournament appearance in Jackson, Tenn.



Katie Nelson



Two Jerseys Retired

The numbers of two former Lady Flames basketball players, **Jan Dodson-Spangler** and **Jessica Still** were retired and hoisted to the rafters in Walker Arena during a recent ceremony. Number retirement is not doled out lightly, so the accomplishments of honorees must be legendary. Both helped the Lady Flames post 110 victories and claim the university's highest NAIA ranking ever, No. 2. Below are their impressive stats:

JESSICA STILL

- Scored 1,772 points and collected 539 rebounds
- Made a university record of 365 3-point shots
- Four trips to NAIA National Tournament
- Three straight SSAC Regular-Season Titles
- Two straight SSAC Tournament Championships
- 2007-08 First-Team NAIA All-American
- 2006-07 Second-Team NAIA All-American
- Three-Time SSAC All-Conference
- NAIA Scholar Athlete
- Three-Time Academic All-SSAC
- 2007-08 SSAC Player of the Year

JAN DODSON

- Scored 1,396 Points and collected 716 rebounds
- Four trips to NAIA National Tournament
- Three straight SSAC Regular-Season Titles
- Two straight SSAC Tournament Championships
- 2007-08 WBCA and NAIA All-American
- Two-Time NAIA Scholar Athlete
- Three-Time SSAC All-Conference
- Three-Time Academic All-SSAC

Lee Athletics in Brief

Women's Soccer

Yelton Gets Two Awards

Lee University Women's Soccer Coach Matt Yelton was presented a plaque at the NSCAA Convention in St. Louis. The award was presented by Al Albert, NSCAA president, and Ernesto Bruce of Adidas. After directing the Lady Flames to the NAIA National Championship, Yelton was presented two awards—the Brine-NAIA Women's Soccer National Coach of the Year and the Adidas NSCAA NAIA National Coach of the Year.



(l-r) Al Albert,
Matt Yelton,
Ernesto Bruce

Men's Basketball

Kuli-Zade's Three Pointers Leads Flames

Balance has been the name of the game for the Lee men's basketball team during the entire 2008-09 season. Four Flames have averaged in double-digit scoring and have produced an offense that scores over 81 points per game. However, Coach Tommy Brown stresses defense in every practice session. His team holds opponents to 38 percent shooting from the field, fourth best in the nation.

Two of Lee's four defeats came at the hands of clubs ranked No. 2 in the nation. The first loss came at Oregon Tech, a team ranked No. 1 in NAIA Division II when they stopped Lee's six-game winning streak on Nov. 22. Mountain State, listed No. 2 in the Division I NAIA rankings all season, handed the Flames a defeat in Walker Arena. Auburn-Montgomery, another ranked club, whipped the Flames in a SSAC road game, while Shorter College pinned a rare SSAC home defeat on Brown's club.



Elmar Kuli-Zade fires
another three pointer

The Flames are currently 19-4 and battling Auburn-Montgomery for the top spot in the Southern States Athletic Conference. Heading into a series of five-straight road games, Lee owns a season-high seven-straight victories. Senior guard Elmar Kuli-Zade is one of the nation's top 3-point shooters (51 percent). He is also knocking down 80 percent of his free-throws and has been Brown's floor general for the entire season.

National Recognition

Brew Coach of the Year; Altopp Inducted

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) recently honored Lee University head coach Mark Brew as the NAIA Rawlings and American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) Diamond Baseball National Baseball Coach of the Year. The award was presented at the 2009 Rawlings-NAIA Awards Luncheon in San Diego, Calif. During the ABCA Convention, former Lee head baseball coach Dave Altopp was inducted into the ABCA Hall of Fame and was awarded the prestigious Robert E. "Ish" Smith Achievement Award, which goes to an individual who has given of himself in an unselfish manner to the promotion of NAIA baseball and has distinguished himself in baseball as a coach or administrator. Prior to head coach status, Brew served under Coach Altopp for 10 years as the assistant.



Altopp and Brew



Brew, who guided the Flames to a national runners-up spot in 2008, is 114-25 entering his third season. Last year, Lee made its third World Series appearance overall and earned the No. 1 seed in the tournament. The Flames ended their year with a 63-10 record. Entering the 2009 season, the Flames are ranked No. 2 in the NAIA preseason poll and again picked to win the Southern States Athletic Conference title.

Chattanooga Hall of Fame

Carpenter, Altopp Honored

Lee University Athletic Director Larry Carpenter and former Lee Baseball Coach David Altopp were inducted into the Greater Chattanooga Hall of Fame on February 23. The honor was one of many that have been bestowed on Carpenter and Altopp. Carpenter was presented the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) 2007-08 NAIA-Athletics Director Association (ADA) Athletics Director of the Year award at the 2009 NAIA Awards Banquet held in Kansas City, Mo., as part of the 2009 NAIA Annual Convention scheduled for April 17-21. The award recognizes Carpenter's leadership, impeccable integrity, and boundless energy for college athletics.

Altopp, a member of the NAIA and Lee Athletic Hall of Fame, recently became one of a select few NAIA coaches to be voted into the American Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

Baseball

Davidson Pitches Back-to-Back No-Hitters

Senior left-hander Mitch Davidson accomplished an amazing feat on February 14 when he hurled a gem of a game in the Flames 12-0 win over Virginia Intermont College. Just one week earlier, Davidson whipped-up a hitless game against Illinois Tech.

In the Olympic Field contest, which was shortened to five innings because of the run rule, Davidson (right) fanned four and walked two Cobra hitters. While pitching hitless ball for the 8-0 and second-ranked Lee club, he has posted 11 strikeouts and walked only three batters.



Volleyball

Lady Flames Volley for a Cure

The women's volleyball team Volley for A Cure event which took place at Homecoming raised \$10,000 for cancer research. The photo below shows the official check presentation to Jan Moses, executive director of the Mary Ellen Locher Foundation. Present for the presentation were (kneeling) Sarah Smith, Gretchen Higdon, Bree Whaley and Kelsey Leffew. (Standing) Lee Athletic Director Larry Carpenter, Moses, Vedrana Krsmanovic, Gorana Maric, Jackeline Toruno, and Lee volleyball coaches Andrea and Kevin Hudson.



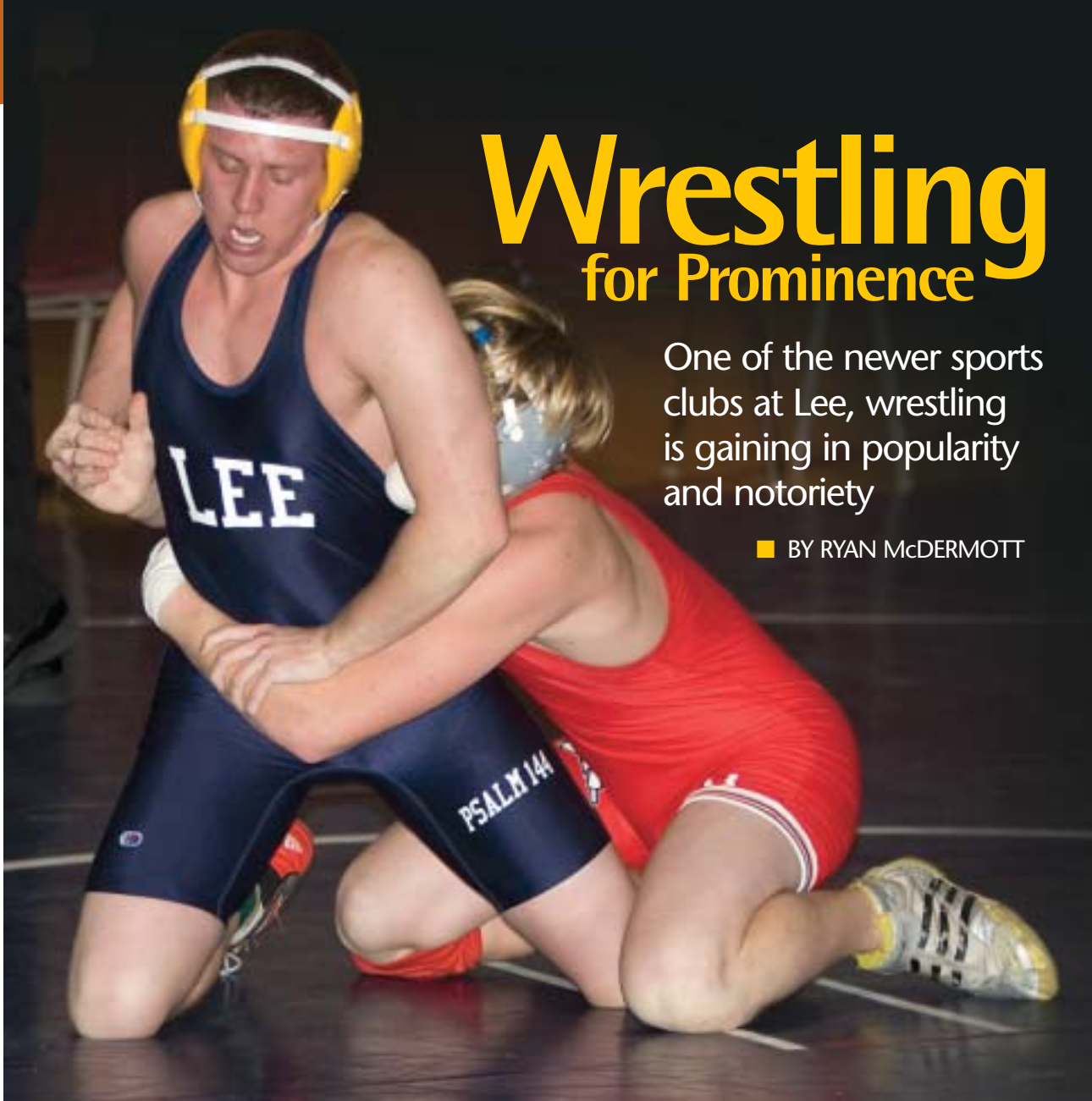
Women's Softball

Venezuelans Anchor 2009 Squad

Coach Emily Russell is extremely optimistic about the 2009 edition of the Lee women's softball team. The Lady Flames enter the 2009 season ranked 11th in the national NAIA pre-season poll. When Venezuelan Olympian hurler and infielder Johana Gomez signed on with the Lady Flames last fall, Lee softball quickly caught the attention of most teams involved in NAIA play.

While Gomez is drawing plenty of attention, another Venezuelan, sophomore shortstop Hernanza Ruiz, made a big splash in the SSAC last season both in the field and at the plate. Senior third baseman Tiffany Walker will team with Ruiz to

give the Lady Flames power and a solid left side of the infield. Senior catcher Bobbi Easter will join with sophomore Danielle Balough and Gomez to give Lee one of the best hitting attacks in the NAIA.



Wrestling for Prominence

One of the newer sports clubs at Lee, wrestling is gaining in popularity and notoriety

■ BY RYAN McDERMOTT

Editor's Note: This is the second in a series on the unique place of club sports at Lee University.

WRESTLING IS THE OLDEST SPORT, traced back 15,000 years to cave drawings in Egyptian and Babylonian reliefs. It was the supreme contest in the Olympic Games. As time marched on and more "exciting" sports have come along, wrestling is not the most popular sport in the world anymore.

However in Cleveland and Bradley County, Tennessee, wrestling holds its ground of territory. With a rich tradition, wrestling in Cleveland is like football in Texas. Between two of the county high schools, Bradley Central and Cleveland High School, the number of state championships that have been won over the

years is unprecedented anywhere else in the nation. The awards are not just individual state championships, but team state championships as well. With that comes a large base of thousands of loyal fans and a local, built-in talent pool.

This type of tradition is what can be developed at Lee University. Introducing wrestling onto the campus scene in an organized fashion is something Lee has not attempted before, but given the talent in this area, a Lee wrestling team has the potential to be recognized as one of the teams to beat in collegiate wrestling.

* * * * *

The Men's Wrestling club got off the ground three years ago under the direction of captain Joe Jellison. They started off with only four wrestlers and attended a couple of tournaments which allowed the team to

qualify for the national tournament. The squad has more than doubled and the 2008 team qualified four wrestlers for the National Collegiate Wrestling Association (NCWA) National Championships.

The NCWA is the governing body for collegiate wrestling, created to fill a gap in today's wrestling community. Many institutions have lost their NCAA wrestling programs due to outside influences such as budgetary cutbacks or governmental legislation. Although interest and participation among students remains high, many schools have been forced to offer their students fewer opportunities. The NCWA has stepped in to help provide this opportunity to the increasing number of high school seniors searching for continued wrestling competition in college.

Despite the fact that wrestling is the fastest growing male interscholastic sport, colleges and universities have been unable to offer wrestling opportunities for these incoming students within their athletic departments. The NCWA mission is to help build programs under the student services or recreational sports departments of universities. Being a part of this organization gives the wrestling club at Lee immediate credibility in the wrestling community.

For the first two years of the program, the wrestling club had to use facilities at Cleveland High or other venues. However, the 2007 acquisition of Mayfield Elementary bordering the Lee campus brought along with it the old school's gymnasium which now provides a perfect venue for the wrestling team, both for practices and



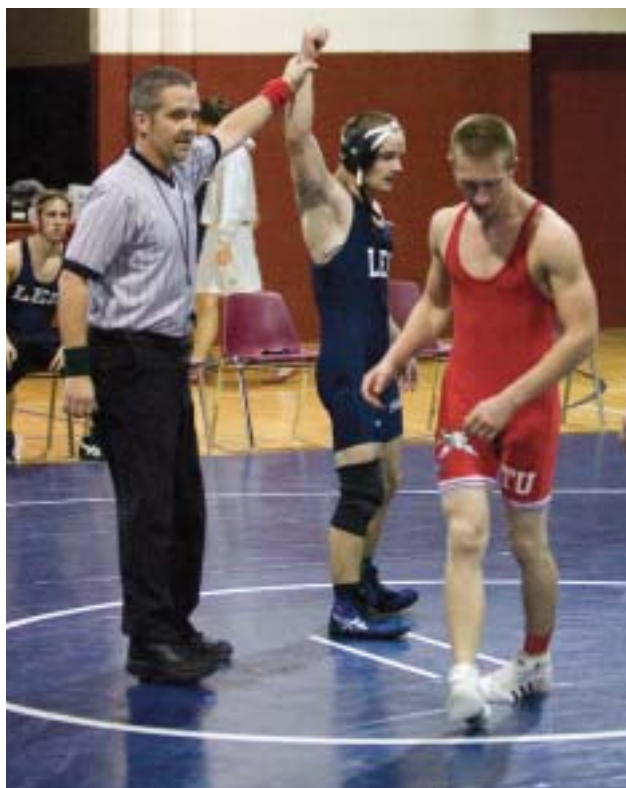
matches. The Lee University Athletic Department was able to purchase a full size mat that is kept in the gym.

Last fall, the Lee wrestlers hosted the first collegiate wrestling meet ever in Bradley County. The opponent was none other than arch rival Tennessee Temple. Although a wrestling rivalry may not be as big as basketball, Temple has a nationally ranked wrestling program and Lee is well on its way. No doubt there will be more heard about this rivalry in seasons to come.

The Lee Wrestling Team had a successful first half of the 2008-09 season with only eight wrestlers competing. Currently, senior, Joe Jellison (125 weight class), is the Top Team Point Leader for the Flames by racking up a total of 41.70 points, which puts him at No.8 in the NCWA national poll rankings in his respective weight class.

The wrestling club is another example of Lee students working hard at the things about which they are passionate. The wrestlers raise most of their own funding, practice and condition and travel all over the country to compete. And like other athletic teams at Lee, you can expect them to do well. 💪

Ryan McDermott is coordinator of Information Services and Technology Special Projects at Lee, assistant coach and vice president of the Lee University Wrestling Club.



A LIFE IN NEUROSCIENCE

Meet DR. JEFF CONN, the 2008 recipient of Lee University's most prestigious alumni award

LEE UNIVERSITY named Dr. P. Jeffrey Conn Distinguished Alumnus of the Year at the university's Homecoming last November. Conn directs Vanderbilt University's Pharmacology Department's Program in Translational Neuropharmacology and the Vanderbilt Institute of Chemical Biology's program in Drug Discovery. During his distinguished career, he has made huge strides in the drug discovery field.

"There is perhaps no alumnus of Lee who has accomplished more, in the field of science and research, than Dr. Jeff Conn," said Lee University President Paul Conn. "He provides such a wonderful model to Lee students of someone who combines a strong faith with a brilliant career in the laboratory. In this period when we are focusing on science and our science grads, Jeff is a perfect choice for the Distinguished Alumnus of the Year."

After graduating from Lee in 1981, Conn received the Ph.D. degree in Pharmacology from Vanderbilt University in 1986 and pursued postdoctoral studies in the Department of Pharmacology at Yale University. Dr. Conn joined the faculty of the Department of Pharmacology at Emory University

in 1988 where he rose to the rank of full professor and established himself as a leader in studies of neurotransmitter receptors and their roles in regulating brain func-

tion in circuits involved in psychiatric and neurological disorders. In 2000, Dr. Conn moved to Merck and Company to assume the position of Senior Director and head of





PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANNE RAINER

the Department of Neuroscience at Merck's site in West Point, Penn. Dr. Conn moved to Vanderbilt University in 2003 to start a new program in Drug Discovery, with a primary mission of facilitating translation of recent advances in basic science to novel therapeutics.

Dr. Conn is Editor in Chief of *Molecular Pharmacology*, Regional Editor (North America) of *Current Neuropharmacology* and serves on the editorial boards of six other international journals. He serves on the Scientific Advisory Boards of Addex Pharmaceuticals, Invitrogen Life Technologies, Seaside Therapeutics, Cephalon Inc., AstraZeneca US, Hoffman La Roche, The Michael J. Fox Foundation, the Dystonia Medical Research Foundation and Eyeforpharma Advisory Board on CNS Drugs. He is chairman of the Neuropharmacology division of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET).

Dr. Conn has received numerous awards and honors, including the NARSAD Essel Investigator Distinguished Investigator Award, the ASPET-Astellas Award in Transla-

tional Pharmacology, the Pharmacia - ASPET Award for Experimental Therapeutics, the Charles R. Park Award For Basic Research Revealing Insights into Physiology and Pathophysiology, and was named as an ISI Most-Cited Scientists in Pharmacology & Toxicology. He serves on several national and international committees, including International Union of Pharmacology (IUPHAR) subcommittee on receptor nomenclature, the American Society for Pharmacology and Therapeutics (ASPET)

Publications Board of Trust, ASPET Awards Committee, and is an Expert Consultant, Compound Selection Committee, Treatment Units for Research on Neurocognition and Schizophrenia (TURNS). Dr. Conn's current research is focused on development of novel treatment strategies for schizophrenia, Parkinson's disease, and other brain disorders.

Conn and his wife, Dr. Anita Ball Conn '79, have three children: Jordan, Elizabeth (both Lee graduates) and Nathan. 🍷



Jennie V. Hill '43 lives in Columbia, SC, where she is retired, but remains active as a chaplain at her local church where over the last 60 years she has taught Sunday school, children's church and nursery.



▲ Three generations of Lee graduates gathered for commencement at Lee last May. **Peggy Outten '54** was the first of three to walk across that stage with a bachelor's degree in Bible Studies and Theology. She currently lives in Salisbury, MD, where she is active in her church and throughout her community.

Bobbie Jean Robison '82, daughter of Peggy, was the second to graduate from

Lee with a degree in Early Childhood Education. Bobbie is married and has two children, and uses her degree in Hopkinsville, KY. **Jennifer Robison**, daughter of Bobbie and granddaughter of Peggy, received her diploma in Physical Education/Recreation last May. Jennifer lives in Cleveland TN, where she is a substitute teacher, working at Barnes and Noble and the YMCA.

Dollie Kosters '56 is retired and lives in Woodinville, WA. She has two children and three grandchildren.

Drina (Dee) Simmons Beman '57 is retired and lives in Canal Fulton, OH, with her husband, Thomas. They have two children, three granddaughters and one great-grandson. Dee would love to hear from anyone who was at Lee when she was there between 1955-57, lived in Nora Chambers and worked in the canteen.



▲ **John B. Massey '59** and his wife, Ralphie, live in Signal Mountain, TN. They recently visited the Philippines where they worked in church services conducted in rural areas where their son was the minister.

Bill '73 and Linda Salvage Martin '73 recently celebrated their 36th year of marriage. They live in Richmond, VA, and they have two grandchildren. Their daughter and son-in-law are Lee grads. Bill has been a staff pastor at West End Assembly of God for 26 years, where he directs congregational care and received his D. Min. degree last year. Linda is a director for the Richmond YMCA.

Vicky Miller Edwards '82 is married to Bill and they

have four children. They live in Northwest Missouri where Vicky is a licensed minister of music with the Church of God.

Twyla Daugherty Green '82 recently received the RNC (Registered Nurse



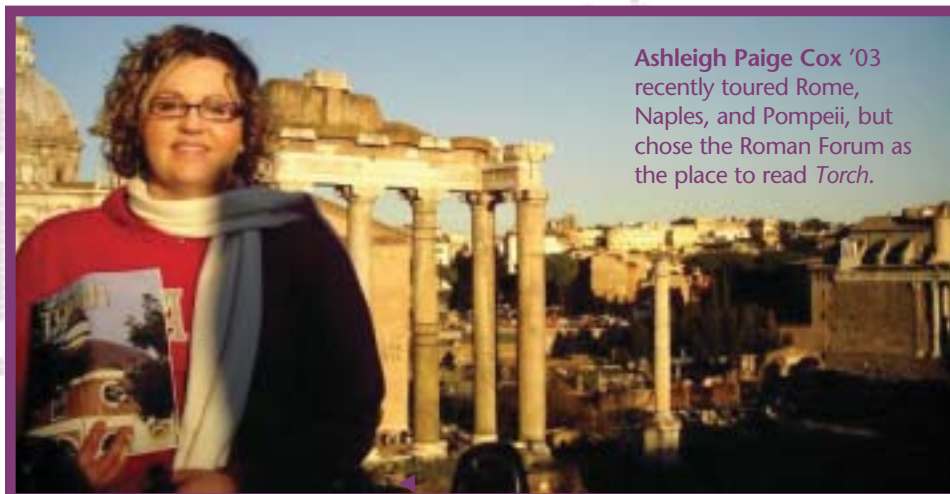
Certified) designation by the National Certification Corporation. Twyla is a

member of the Academy of Neonatal Nursing and currently works in the Special Care Nursery at Erlanger East Hospital in Chattanooga, TN. She is married to **Dr. William Green '81**, assistant professor of music at Lee University. They have two children.

Detra Spulock Anderson '84 lives in Louisville, KY, where she has been married 11 years and has two sons. Detra says she would love to hear from friends and "anyone who lived on Simmons Hall in fall 1983."

TORCH TRAVELS

Send us a photo of you and/or a fellow alumnus or alumna reading *Torch* at an exotic or noteworthy destination. Tell us where you were and what was the occasion. Send prints to the Lee University Alumni Office, 1120 North Ocoee Street, Cleveland, TN 37311, ATTN: Torch Travels. High resolution digital photos can be e-mailed to torch@leeuniversity.edu.



Ashleigh Paige Cox '03 recently toured Rome, Naples, and Pompeii, but chose the Roman Forum as the place to read *Torch*.

Cheryl Lentini Hoffmann '86 is living in Connecticut with her husband, Rand, and two children. Cheryl is employed by the state at UConn Health Center as an administrative fiscal assistant in the operating budget dept. Cheryl says, "I would love to get back in touch with old friends. Please send an e-mail to: cherylhoffmann@yahoo.com."

Brenda Gilbert

Wynkoop, '89 recently received her HIPAA Associate designation, through the American Health Insurance Association of America. This designation reflects working knowledge of commonly referred to Privacy Act. Brenda lives in Cleveland, TN, and has over 25 years of experience in healthcare and is serving as manager of legal compliance for BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee, Inc.



Vest Named American Bible Society President

The American Bible Society Board of Trustees recently invited former Lee University president **Dr. R. Lamar Vest** to become president of the 193-year-old organization. Previously executive vice president for Global Scripture Ministries, Vest accepted the invitation and began his service as CEO on January 1, 2009.

Dr. Dennis Dickerson, chairman of the Board of Trustees commented, "We are thrilled that Dr. Vest has accepted our invitation to serve as the Bible Society's next president.



Grounded in his deep commitment to the church as well as his many years of fostering new global Bible mission, Dr. Vest will provide strong leadership for the ongoing work and ministry of the American Bible Society."

Dr. Vest said, "I am looking forward to leading the American Bible Society through this period of transition and change and particularly working together with Bible agencies, churches and ministries around the world. My wife, Vickie, and I are excited about the opportunity to serve and support the American Bible Society's mission of seeing lives transformed through engagement with God's Word."

In addition to his presidency of Lee from 1984-86, Vest has been a long-term leader in the development and expansion of the Bible mission in the United States and around the world. He serves as a member of the executive committee of the United Bible Societies Global Board and is a past chairman of the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE). Dr Vest is also a two-time general overseer for the Church of God, serving two four-year terms: 1990-94 and 2000-2004.

Founded in 1816 and headquartered in New York City the mission of the American Bible Society is to make the Bible available to every person in a language and format each can understand and afford, so that all people may experience its life-changing message.



▲ **Tiffane "Suga" Henry** '02 was in Washington, D.C., for the inauguration of President Obama where she posed with *Torch* in the shadow of the Washington Monument.

Carol King Lackey '71, **Tannis Alford Duncan** '63, **Carolyn Bilbo** '70 and **Mary Stephens Painter** '60 "chill out" with *Torch* and a glacier in Alaska. ▼



Alumni Get Ph.D.s

■ **VALERIE GANN MATHURA '80** achieved her career dream last fall by completing her doctoral journey with Capella University, receiving a Ph.D. in Professional Studies. Valerie resides with her husband, **Allan Mathura '80** in Newnan, GA, where she serves as principal of Ruth Hill Elementary School. She is also closely involved with church ministry in support of Allan, who has served as senior pastor of South Metro Ministries for 24 years. Their daughters and sons-in-law have all attended Lee University: Edward and Jennifer Mathura Bailey, James (JC) and Kimberly Mathura Worley.



■ **TY ABERNATHY '95** graduated last December from Mississippi State University with a Ph.D. in Cognitive Science. He has worked at the university-affiliated Social Science Research Center for the past decade as a research associate studying factors related to first-year student retention and academic success. He also teaches psychology at both the university and East Mississippi Community College.

Tim '87 and Rebecca Higgins Cranfill '91 live in San Antonio, TX, with their two daughters. Tim is director of pastoral care at Southeast Baptist Hospital, while Rebecca is the academy director for La Petite Academy. Tim says, "We love the feel of a never-ending vacation that (San Antonio) holds for us."

Melissa Blanchard '91 lives in Portland, ME, with her son and she works at Portland High School. She recently earned a transitional license in special education. Melissa says, "I would love to hear from former Lee friends." Her e-mail address is joelmissy@yahoo.com.

Claire Sanger '94 is living in Lexington, KY, where in November 2008 she accepted a position as assistant professor at the University of Kentucky Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Department for Craniofacial Surgery, Gen-

eral Plastic Surgery, Breast Reconstruction and Research.

Charlotte Adams '95 and her husband, Rob, have three children and live in Hixson, TN.

Paul David Henson '95 lives in the small valley of Glassy Mountain, Greenville, SC, below the N.C. border, with his wife, Jerldean. Paul David previously worked in computer systems and the Navy, but is now retired after 23 years of service.

Johanna Tate Camba '96 and her husband, Michael, welcomed their first child, Roman Michael, born December 31, 2008. Johanna continues to work for MTV Networks, and has relocated to Los Angeles, CA, from New York, NY.

Scott '96 and Rachel Goble Lawry '96 live in Montgomery, AL, where Scott pastors Grace @ Bell



▲ **Kimberly Scott Pereira '94** traveled to Italy on a business trip with her husband, Acacio, where they brought *Torch* along on a romantic gondola ride in Venice, Italy.

Josh Sundheim '00 (far right) congratulates fellow Lee alum **Ricardo Pierre-Louis '07** with a copy of *Torch* as Ricardo returned from winning the MLS Cup with the Columbus Crew. They are joined by Josh's wife Lisa and son, Joey. ▼



Road Church and Rachel is a part-time physical therapist. Scott Randall Lawry, Jr. was added to their family in December 2008. They also have a 4 year-old daughter.

Monty '96 and Jessie McClure '00 have been married for eight years and have three children. They live in Statham, GA, where Monty sells life insurance and Jessie is a stay-at-home mom.

Bobbie Sutherland Shoukri '96 and her husband announce the birth of their second child, Annaliese Elizabeth, born on December 18, 2008.

Randall Stephens '97, began duties in January 2009 as principal at Stuart Elementary School in Cleveland, TN. Randall replaces long-time principal **Donald W.**



Steve Watters '92 and his wife, Candice, recently had their fourth child, Theodore Rex, on November 13, 2008. The birth came just before Moody Publishers released a new book by Steve and Candice called *Start Your Family: Inspiration for Having Babies* (more information available at www.startyourfamily.com).

Goff '68, who retired after 18 years at the school. Cleveland Director of Schools Dr. Rick Denning stated, "Randall Stephens will do an outstanding job for the Stuart community. He has a proven record as a teacher and administrator and has the ability to continue the tradition of excellence that Mr. Goff has maintained for so many years."

Patrick Whitecotton '97 is teaching at Ooltewah Middle School near Chattanooga, TN and recently become a grandfather.

Benjamin Woodlief '97 lives in Portland, OR, where he is single and works at Sanderson Safety Supply. Benjamin says, "I'm as happy as a kid in a candy store...life's a journey, and I, for one, intend to always enjoy riding with my head out the window!"

Jeff Akin '99 lives in Porterville, CA, and is married to Shelby. They have two daughters. Jeff is a store manager for a national drug store chain and serves at the Porterville Church of God.

Candace Shreve '99 has lived in Boston, MA, since 2004. She is the director of business development at a healthcare organization. She is very involved at the Park Street Church and would love to hear from friends and fellow Lee Singers.

Angela Jones Robinson '00 is married to Russ and they live in Georgetown, KY. After working 10+ years in the administrative field, Angela is an editorial assistant for *The Lane Report*, a local business magazine based in Lexington, KY.



◀ **Bobbie Arrington Clark '56** trekked across Italy with *Torch* in tow, here trying to hold up the Leaning Tower of Pisa.



▲ A "mini-reunion" of mid-80's alumni took place in Greenville, SC, and *Torch* was invited. At the gathering was (l-r) **Alan Hill '84**, **Marc Morris '84**, **Karen Bowdle LaBelle '84**, **Luke Denton '06**, **Mark Harris '86**, **Lisa Hill '86** and **Mark Hill '86**.

Josh Sundheim '00 recently relocated with his family from Chattanooga, TN, to Columbus, OH, where Josh is working as a fleet manager for US XPRESS Enterprises.

Genesis Bultema DeLong '01 recently moved to the Chicago area to take a job as campaign event planner in the Wheaton College Advancement and Alumni Relations office. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in higher education from Abilene Christian University. She and her husband, Steven, live in Glen Ellyn, IL.

Scott Falkestein, Jr. '01 is a missionary with YWAM (Youth With A Mission), "evangelizing the salvation of Jesus Christ to the lost and unreached people groups in countries such as Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Haiti, & Panama."

Robin Burdett '02 lives in Richfield, OH, where she is

enrolled in graduate school working toward an MBA. She attends Bethel Temple Assembly of God where she is involved in worship life ministry. Robin says, "In some ways it seems like I was just at Lee and in others ways it seems like a lifetime ago. But constantly present in my mind is how much I loved my time there and how grateful I am for the education, people and experiences I gained.... Life is good; my family is good...God is good! I'd love to hear from Lee folks! You can e-mail me at robyn07@aol.com."

Tiffane "Suga" Henry '02 recently returned to New York after three years of graduate school at Southeastern Louisiana University. She is an aspiring director and playwright and will be opening her first New York show in May.

Crystal Machacek '02 married John Jung on May



The LaMagnas

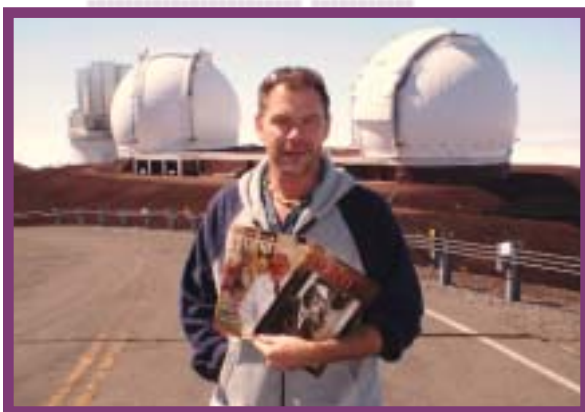
10, 2008 in Charlotte, NC, where they now reside. Lee Alumni in their wedding included Kylie Anne Machacek '05, '06 M and Erin Easter '03. Crystal resigned after a five-year career in radio and print media and now the newlyweds are both in training at Crossway Community Church to become counselors.

Caron Francis Norton '02 is a stay-at-home mom who lives in Rock Hill, SC, with her husband, Jeff, and their three children.

▲ **Stephen and Rachael DiGiulio LaMagna '03** were married on June 15, 2008, in Wheaton, IL. They now live in Irvington, NY, where Rachael is a meeting planner for a Hedge Fund in Manhattan and Stephen is an IT analyst for Pepsi Company.

Michael Dennis '04 is serving as worship arts pastor at Christ Wesleyan Church in Milton, PA. He is in his third year of doctoral studies at The Robert E. Webber Institute for

John Dixon '88 took two issues of *Torch* to the top of Mauna Kea, Big Island, Hawaii, considered "the tallest mountain on earth" (13,796 feet above sea level, 30,000 feet from where it sits on the ocean floor). ▼



▲ **Kathryn Donev '02**, OSM with her husband, Dony, and *Torch* in front of one of the six public schools which they spoke at on the "Day of the Bible" in Kardjali, Bulgaria.

Worship Studies. His wife, Lana, recently finished her certification and is teaching first grade. They have two children.

Stephanie McCafferey '04 spent a year in Seoul, Korea, teaching English in the public school system. Currently she lives in Cleveland, TN, where she works for the University of Tennessee Chattanooga at the Children's Center. Stephanie says, "Feel free to contact me or look me up on *myspace.com*!"

Kristin Michovich '05 and **Jorge Michovich '05M**, recently welcomed their new baby boy, Alejandro. The couple resides in Savannah, GA, where they are both teachers.

Benjamin Stiefel '07 and his wife, **Lorin '08**, recently moved to Huntingdon, TN, where Benjamin is new nursing home administrator for the Life Care Center of Bruceton/Hollow Rock.

We Want to Hear From You!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Last Year at Lee _____

Phone (H) _____ Phone (W) _____

E-mail Address _____

Family (spouse, children, etc.) _____

Occupation _____

Brief notes of interest _____

THREE WAYS TO SEND US YOUR UPDATE

- **Lee's Web Site:** www.leeuniversity.edu. Follow the links to "Alumni and Friends" and click on "Who's Where Update."
- **E-mail:** torch@leeuniversity.edu. High resolution digital photos are welcome. Please include all the information requested above.
- **Mail:** Send this completed form to the Lee University Alumni Office, P.O. Box 3450, Cleveland, TN 37320-3450.

Francis (Big Red) and Becky Carter '59 took *Torch* to the Shuriijo Castle at Okinawa, Japan, where they were visiting their daughter and son-in-law in the Army. ▼



▲ Three Lee grads met in Oak Island, NC, to celebrate their 40th birthday this year. **Kristy Gilmer Allen '90**, **Joy Smith '91**, and **Kim Patterson Holt '90** stand with *Torch* in front of the federal court house in Wilmington, NC. Happy 40th!

Announcing the 2009 Lee University Annual Alumni Fund Goal: **\$415,000**

Hundreds of alumni of BTS, Lee Academy, Lee College and Lee University have made giving back to their alma mater a part of their annual budget. From \$1 to \$10,000, alumni support is the backbone of any university and Lee is no exception. If you haven't already decided to participate in the Annual Alumni Fund, make 2009 your year to join!

2009 GIVING LEVELS

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| • Honor Roll | \$1 - \$299 |
| • Fair Share | \$300 - \$499 |
| • President's Circle | \$500 - \$999 |
| • President's Circle Silver | \$1,000 - \$1,999 |
| • President's Circle Gold | \$2,000 - \$4,999 |
| • President's Circle Platinum | \$5,000 and up |

As an expression of our gratitude, 2009 Alumni Fund donors will receive the following gifts from Lee University:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| • 2009 Alumni calendar | \$20 donation |
| • 2009 Alumni t-shirt | \$50 donation |
| • 2009 Alumni mug | \$250 donation |
| • Two Homecoming passes | \$500 donation |
| • Alumni stadium blanket | \$1,000 donation |
| • Four Homecoming passes | \$1,000 donation |
| • Unlimited Homecoming passes | \$5,000 donation |

If you graduated in the last 7 years, it's easy to become a member of the **Young Alumni Torch Society**:

- Make a gift of any amount to the Annual Alumni Fund for two consecutive years.
- Continue making *consecutive* annual gifts to the Alumni Fund to maintain your membership.
- When you have been an alumnus of Lee University for more than 7 years, you will continue to receive recognition and appreciation from Lee for your annual giving even though you will no longer be eligible for Torch Society membership.

Benefits of Torch Society Membership:

- Invitation to Torch Society Networking Reception
- Torch Society Pass for admission to all Homecoming weekend events
- Annual Torch Society member milestone gift

Please mail your 2009 Alumni Fund gifts to Lee University, Alumni Relations,
P.O. Box 3450, Cleveland, TN 37320-3450 or donate securely online at <http://alumni.leeuniversity.edu/>

