



Witness to the World

Lee University had an unprecedented world stage on January 21, 2013, at the Inauguration of the President of the United States. Read a first-hand account of the journey and the details of how the Festival Choir arrived on the Capitol steps. By Carolyn Dirksen

Lee Headed 'Downtown'

Work has begun to transform the former First Baptist Church property into a showcase portion of the Lee campus, creating a gateway to Lee University from downtown Cleveland. By Cameron Fisher

Governor Gets a Degree

Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam joined a record number of winter graduates at commencement by being awarded a degree. His was an honorary Doctor of Laws given by President Conn following an address to the Class of 2012.

Faculty Transitions

Following the resignation of Vice President Carolyn Dirksen on July 1, Dr. Deborah Murray will step into her role, while Dr. Bill Estes and Dr. Eric Moyen will move up.

Two Assistants Get Head Coaching Jobs

Excellence in Lee's sports programs earned two assistant head coaches top spots at new programs at other schools. Both basketball programs head to national tournaments and the baseball team continues its stellar run in the region.





OPENING THOUGHTS from Dr. Paul Conn





Transitions

I want to write about Dr. Carolyn Dirksen, so I should begin by commenting that she is not retiring. She is, however, making a major professional transition. Beginning July 1, she will leave the position of vice president for Academic Affairs to begin a new role as director of Faculty Development.

The announcement of Dr. Dirksen's resignation as chief academic officer set in motion a series of changes (see article on page 17) affecting three other important academic offices at Lee. Dr. Debbie Murray will become the vice president, and her current responsibilities as dean of the Helen

DeVos College of Education will be assumed by Dr. Bill Estes. He in turn will be replaced as chair of the Department of Health, Exercise Science, and Secondary Education by Dr. Eric Moyen, who is now a faculty member in that department.

But all that lies in the future. The work of these talented academic administrators will make a big impact on the lives of students and faculty in the years going forward.

Carolyn Dirksen has already made such an impact. She leaves the Cabinet having created a superb record at every level of the academic enterprise here at Lee. She came as a young English teacher in 1969, later became chair of the Department of Language Arts, then dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, before joining the Cabinet as a vice president in 1999. It is an understatement to say that she has done each job well; it wouldn't be a stretch to suggest that her impact as an academic administrator has set a new standard for others to follow.

Now, she turns her attention to faculty development, which has always been close to her heart. In addition to the work of that office, I will be asking her to accept special assignments; for example, she will be directing the effort to add a nursing program to Lee (see story on page 16), and you can expect to see her fingerprints on many of Lee's programs in the years to follow.

At a personal level, I am experiencing Carolyn's transition with mixed emotions: I'm happy to facilitate her desire to move, at this time in her life, to a less intense and demanding job; but at the same time, I become nostalgic and a bit sentimental looking back on all the wonderful comradeship we have shared in the fourteen years we have worked sideby-side on the Cabinet. Our paths in life, professional and personal, have been closely intertwined, and the friendship that has developed is a deep and permanent one on which I depend.

So, Dr. Dirksen is not going anywhere but across campus. When alums return to Lee, the many of them who remember her fondly will still find that she has a cup of coffee and a warm welcome for them. For her, and for all of us who work with her, this change is not an ending but a transition. I'm looking forward to the next chapter in her remarkable career and ministry at Lee.

@PaulConn

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Lee University TORCH

Spring 2013 - Vol. 55, No. 1

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.



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ON THE COVER: The Festival Choir performs on the steps of the Capitol during the presidential inauguration. Photo by Arlyne VanHook

TO THE LEFT: The Festival Choir rehearses on the steps of the Capitol the day before the inauguration. Photo by Arlyne VanHook



Festival Choir Meets the World

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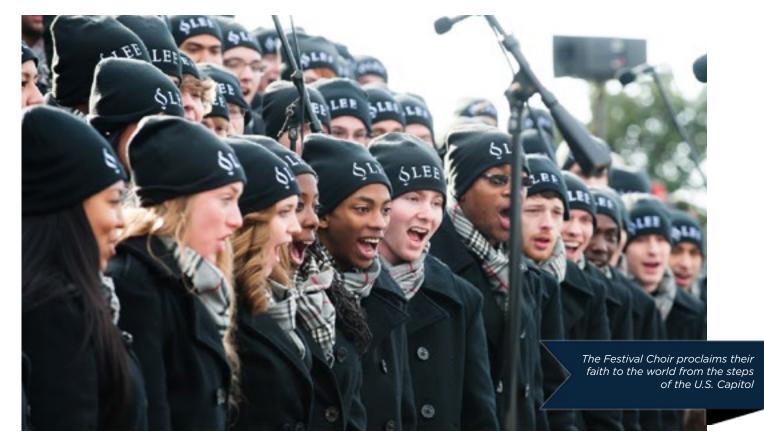
PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

A behind-the-scenes tour of one of Lee's most historic appearances

n the predawn hours of January 21, 2013, the ▲ 204 students comprising the Lee University Festival Choir stood in the opulent Senate Chamber and rehearsed one last time before taking the national stage. Although their excitement was palpable, they were professional, focused, and intent. It was hard to remember that they were kids, most on their first trip to D.C. In the last minutes before leaving the room, they joined in a prayer, tied their scarves in identical knots, and straightened their caps. This was the big time, and they were ready.

They came from 20 states and five countries, freshmen to graduate students, majoring in a cross-section of disciplines from music to theology to elementary education. One was a descendant of Betsy Ross, and another traced her family back to First Lady Helen Taft. One had a grandmother who was a seamstress for John Kennedy, and one was the son of Jamaican immigrants slated to attain citizenship early this year. They came from the British Virgin Islands, Nigeria, Canada, and Paraguay, from Tennessee, Wyoming, Maine, Pennsylvania, Washington, Texas, Alabama, and Michigan. They came from seven different vocal ensembles with



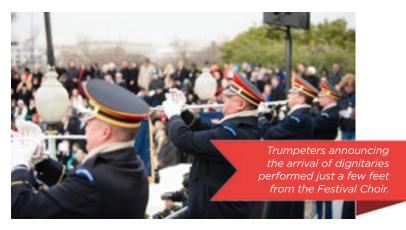


training in everything from master works to gospel. A microcosm of the overall diversity at Lee, they had one thing in common: They could sing.

They made their way single file to the west front of the Capitol, accompanied by the legion of volunteers working the Inauguration. Finding their places on the bleachers, they looked out over an unforgettable sight: the National Mall filling up with 800,000 people assembled to participate in the most cherished ritual of democracy. The sun had come up on a cold, windy morning with a perfectly clear sky, and the view was heart-stopping. Only President Obama and the nation's most honored inner circle had better seats.

The smooth voice of the announcer stilled the hum of a half million conversations, announcing the Lee University Festival Choir, and their moment had arrived. Bill Green, dean of Lee's School of Music, took his place, and the choir hit the first clear notes of "This Land Is Your Land." Music flooded the Mall, and people as far away as the Washington Monument felt the impact of the full, rich sound. Dontarius Young, from Social Circle, Ga., stepped to the microphone for the first solo followed by Kaylee Gallagher from Centerville, Ohio. With the poise of seasoned performers, they captured the daunting crowd's attention.

Next, the choir launched into "All That Hath Life and Breath, Praise Ye the Lord," with a stunning solo by Chelsea Davidson, a junior from Ringgold, Ga. Reflecting on the moment, Chelsea comments: "The only word that comes to mind is 'Wow!' When I stepped up to the microphone, I could hear





Vice President Biden, President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama acknowledge the performance of the choirs, seated just behind them.

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the choir's massive sound resonating through the Mall and that is when the immensity of this event hit me. While I was singing my solo line, I realized the truth of the words, "I have cried unto the Rock, and He has heard me and healed my spirit!" By the last note, my

held the attention of the crowd, and the significance of the moment was not lost on the choir. Ashley Coffey, Cleveland, Tenn., captured the feeling of the group. "Singing at the Presidential Inauguration was one of the most humbling opportunities a group of Judah of Cleveland, Tenn., explained, "Regardless of political affiliation, it should make all of us proud to have taken part in such a grand representation of our great nation's ideals. Looking out at that sea of faces was something that overwhelmed me

Knowing that we opened the ceremony by praising the Lord will leave an impact on us unlike any other experience.

- Ashley Coffey - Lee Student

heart was overflowing with gratitude for this incredible opportunity, the grace of God, and the love I felt from all my peers. I couldn't hold back the tears."

Their seventeen-minute program included the spiritual, "I Can Tell the World Yes About This," the regional favorite, "Chattanooga Choo-Choo," and the patriotic "Hymn for America," with "God Bless America" as the rousing conclusion. The varied program

college students could have. Knowing that we opened the ceremony by praising the Lord will leave an impact on us unlike any other experience."

As the unforgettable, historic event unfolded before their eyes, members of the choir understood that this was more than politics; this was the greatest feat of the world's oldest democracy—the formal recognition of the will of the people. As Jamie Ben-

with patriotism." Alyssa Harrell of Chattanooga, adds, "The best part of the whole experience for me was being a part of a great American tradition. I witnessed something monumental in our nation's history, and I will never forget that experience."

Students were also keenly aware of the significance of the Inauguration of the nation's first African American President on Martin Luther King Day.



Kylan Edmonson from Tuscumbia, Ala., expressed these feelings, "Nearly 50 years ago, Dr. King stood at the end of the National Mall and gave the speech that will forever inspire humanity's quest for social justice. On January 21, Lee University's Festival Choir stood at the U.S. Capitol and sang songs of faith before the president and vice president were sworn in. I have never felt as honored or proud of my country."

President Paul Conn summed up the experience, "We have worked hard for many years to have an exceptional School of Music that performs with the highest quality and doesn't forget our religious heritage. The performance at the Inauguration of the President brought all that together in a way we couldn't have dreamed. Our students had the opportunity to stand up in front of the nation and sing about how Jesus 'healed the sick and He raised the dead.' That goes beyond politics. It is a moment none of us will ever forget, and one that will stand out in Lee's history."

Around the world, Lee supporters watched the choir with pride and excitement. Anna Rich, 2011 Lee grad and recent transplant to D.C. was in the crowd in the National Mall. "It was wonderful to hear the Lee University Festival Choir perform in front of the nation! I attended with two fellow alums and, despite the cold, we loved representing Lee in the crowd. We were deeply proud not only because of how fantastic the choir sounded, but because we know what Lee stands for and what a blessing it is to be a part of this family."

Students back at Lee cheered the choir on in the Conn and Dixon Centers. "It was really wonderful to see how much the students at home supported the choir," commented Jean Eledge, chair of the Language and Literature Department. "They clapped and cheered, and everyone applauded the soloists. They couldn't have been more enthusiastic if they had been there in person." Even as the choir sang, their Facebook pages filled with comments from around the world, and the flood of positive feedback hasn't stopped yet.

As Andrea Dismukes, veteran Lee



Inauguration By the Numbers:











including the Lincoln Memoria

vocal instructor, pointed out, "Lee alumni from around the world felt that this was their choir. So many of my former music students and former members of Ladies of Lee posted on their own Facebook statuses as if they were part of this choir—and they were. Alumni, current students, faculty, staff, Church of God members, the communities of Cleveland and Chattanooga, and each choir member's family, hometown and home church felt as if we were right there singing for them that morning. The sense of community pride was overwhelming."

Senator Lamar Alexander, Tennessee senator and co-chair of the Joint Committee on the Inauguration, came to campus in early November to invite Lee to send a choir. "I want something big," he told Conn. "Bring up to 200 singers." Lee's Festival Choir is the combination of all seven ensembles and consists of 350 voices, so the obvious challenge was determining which 200 would go. Green and the ensemble directors held auditions, and the 204 chosen students prepared to take part in history.

Despite the fact that the choir was formed for this occasion, the intense effort and profound significance quickly bonded them into a cohesive group. As Anthony Buccerio, Sevierville, Tenn., pointed out, "We were like one big family." The music was difficult for students

on any level. With only two rehearsals before Christmas, they memorized their parts over the break. Choir members returned to school early, and the first weeks of January were crammed with practice. Golden Mudame, a student development graduate student from Nigeria, voiced the feelings of many nonmusic majors: "Working on the music was a great challenge, but with Dr. Green's outstanding direction,

I was able to find within me strength and ability I didn't realize I had."

Green commented, "The opportunity to present the tradition of Lee's exceptional music to our nation was a great honor and definitely a highlight of my personal career. The combined forces of our ensembles gave us the privilege to showcase the varied talents and abilities of our students. I feel very fortunate that I was able to share this experience with them."

For the Festival Choir, for everyone privileged to attend the Inauguration with them, for all the students and alumni of Lee, this was a defining moment whose effects will be further reaching than any of us can yet imagine.



Vice president for Academic Affairs, Dr. Carolyn Dirksen, and her husband, Murl, accompanied the Festival Choir on the Inaugural weekend along with two dozen chaperones.

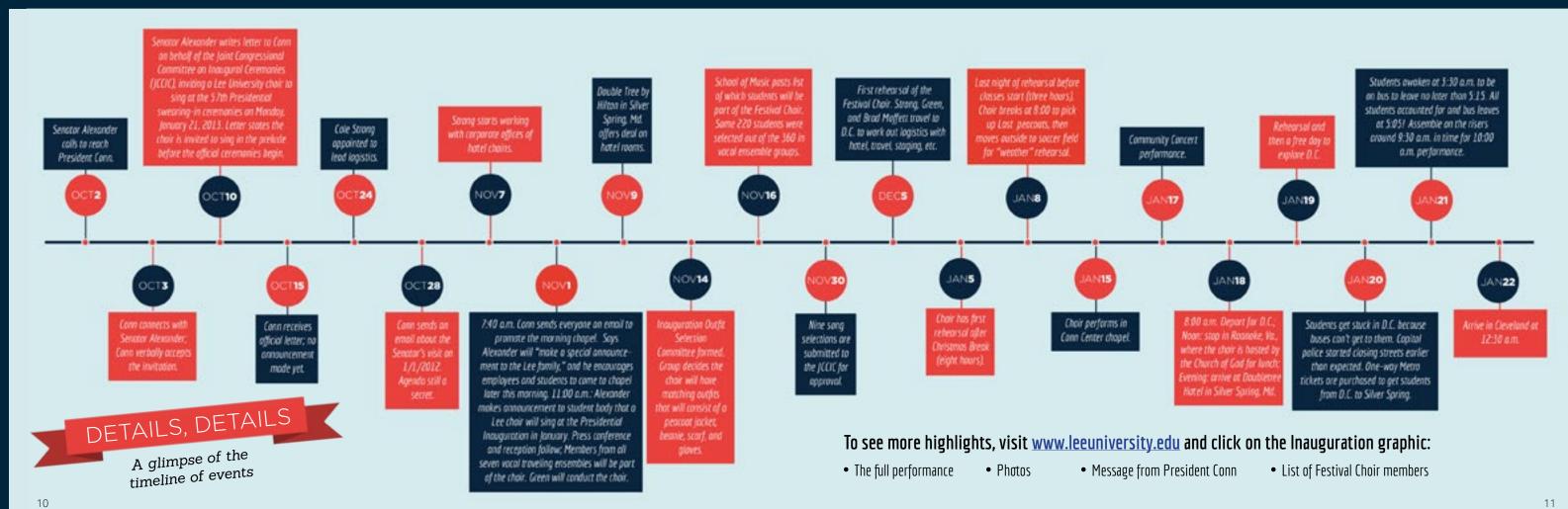












Connecting to MAIN STREET,

CLEVELAND, TENNESSEE

Expansion will officially connect Lee University with downtown Cleveland.

By Cameron Fisher





(above) Allan Jones signs the documents transferring property and cash toward the Southern expansion project. At the table is his wife, Janie, and son, Will. Standing is President Conn (left) and Vice President for University Relations Jerome Hammond.

Much has been reported about the June 2010 acquisition of seven acres of land and buildings when Lee purchased the former home of Cleveland's First Baptist Church. Portions of the site have been occupied, such as the relocation of Campus Safety, and last summer the Division of Adult Learning into newly renovated former offices of the church. The Early Learning Center and the Lee University Development Inclusion Classroom (LUDIC) were moved to the former education wing, built by First Baptist several years ago with a floor plan perfectly suited to the young learner. The exterior of the site has seen virtually no change since it became part of the Lee campus.

While the former FBC campus includes buildings that abut Central Avenue—an east-west street that demarcates the downtown area of Cleveland—a donation to Lee University in December by a local entrepreneur has boosted plans to develop the campus southward where the impact of the purchase of the FBC property can be fully realized.

The boost came via a gift of property and funding from the Allan Jones Foundation.

"It is our family's pleasure to make this donation to Lee University, which will strengthen downtown Cleveland, higher education, and traditional family values," Allan Jones said in a prepared statement. Jones is a native of Cleveland,

successful businessman, and staunch advocate of the preservation and development of downtown. Jones' business forays in Cleveland include renovation of a historic downtown opera house and resurrection of the dying Village Mall into a thriving business and office complex south of the city.

The foundation's gift to the university included a cash donation and a multiunit apartment building located in the middle of the area slated for expansion. The donation clears the way for the key element of the expansion—extending the campus southward along Church Street toward the intersection with Central Avenue.

The last week of January, work began on the razing of the former retail space located at the corner of Central and Ocoee Streets, which at one time housed the first Cleveland location of JC Penney. Following the removal of the one-level structure was the razing of the apartments. The dramatic change of sightlines for travelers driving north out of downtown on Ocoee Street creates a Southern gateway to the Lee campus never before possible.

"We are grateful to the Jones family for this wonderful gift," said Lee President Dr. Paul Conn. "It is the final piece in the puzzle for us. We have lots of work to do, and it will take us three or four years to complete the overall plan, but now, thanks to this gift, we can begin."

COMMUNICATIONS BUILDING to Highlight EXPANSION

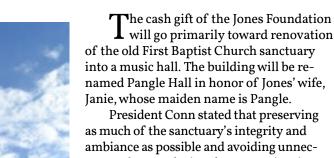
The green space created by **1** the razing of the buildings within the block between Church and Ocoee streets will make way for a new communications building. The announcement of the proposed building was made simultaneously with the announcement of the Jones Foundation gift in December. The future academic structure will be consistent with the existing campus design. Groundbreaking for the 40,000-square-foot facility is expected to be this spring and will include state-of-the-art equipment and classroom facilities for a growing major at Lee.

More information on the specifications of the communications building will be announced in future issues of *Torch*.



The Corn Apartments (inset) sat in the middle of the proposed construction site for the new building. They were razed in late February.

FORMER SANCTUARY to Become MUSIC HALL



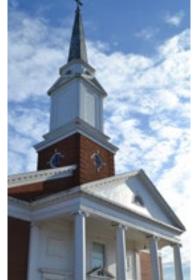
essary changes during the renovation, is a priority. He said most changes will be to the sanctuary interior to make it more suitable for larger musical events. On the outside, the steeple will be replaced with a cupola to "more faithfully reflect an academic style of building," he said.

"We are studying other universities which have recently remodeled old churches into performance venues," Conn said. "There are some good examples out there. The old First Baptist sanctuary is a classic, handsome building, and it is important to us and to the Jones family that this familiar structure not be altered unnecessarily."

Conn reflected that the property slated for redevelopment has been an important part of downtown Cleveland life throughout his lifetime. "I worked at J.C. Penney's when I was in high school," he recalled, "and Allan Jones remembers watching when the steeple was erected at the First Baptist Church. This area is full of memories for all of us, and now we hope to redevelop it into something special for generations to come."

On December 9, 2012, following the announcement, the Cleveland Daily Banner published an editorial which said in part:

A dream that was given its first breath decades ago now stands at the doorstep of reality.... Where new structures are not built, Lee University will design beautifully landscaped lawns and green spaces, a trademark of the school's developmental philosophy.... Jones' donation of property and a substantial financial gift are the final pieces in the visioneering puzzle that will connect Lee *University to our prospering downtown...* New development, especially when it is altering or displacing memories from a community's past, must be carried out with deepest respect. Lee University has pledged such a diligence.... Little in life is more beautiful than a dream whose reality excites the imagination and blooms hope for a new and better day. Downtown Cleveland's welcoming of this Lee University outreach is such beauty.



The interior of the former First Baptist Church sanctuary will be renovated to become a music and performance venue and will be renamed Pangle Hall. The only exterior change will be the replacement of the steeple with a cupola.

CAMPUS NEWS CAMPUS NEWS





(left) Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam, right, accepts the Doctor of Laws degree from President Conn.

Tennessee Governor Addresses Record Number of Lee Grads, Receives Honorary Doctorate

Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam was the commencement speaker for the 2012 Winter Commencement held on December 15, 2012. The winter graduation ceremony was the largest in Lee University history and drew a capacity crowd of graduates, relatives, faculty, staff, and friends who viewed the ceremony live in Conn Center, by closed circuit in nearby Dixon Center, or via live stream on the university's website.

In his opening remarks, Haslam praised the reputation enjoyed by Lee throughout the state of Tennessee, saying, "Lee has a reputation for solid scholarship and academic truth, all the while holding true to spiritual principles."

"I tore up the speech I had," Haslam admitted, referring to the school shooting in Newtown, Connecticut, which took place the day before. "We don't live in a Christ-centered world." The first-term governor then urged graduates to consider what it means to graduate from a Christ-centered school and offered seven suggestions to the graduates as they move into the next phase of life. Among the seven principles he offered were for the graduates to become persons of humility, grace, and truth and to use faith as a gift, not a club.

In an editorial that ran prior to the governor's visit, the *Cleveland Daily Banner* stated, "'Refreshing' is the first word

that comes to mind when a governor schedules time to visit a community without a Capitol Hill cause, a vested interest, or a politically partisan agenda as his travel theme...to realize his presence is wrapped around education, and not elections, is certainly a breath of fresh air." Haslam's appearance at Lee was one of only two Tennessee commencements he addressed in 2012.

While the governor was on campus, Lee officials took the opportunity to bestow an honorary doctorate on the state's top elected leader. Haslam is a native of Knoxville, with a degree in history from Emory University, former president of Pilot Corporation, elected and reelected mayor of Knoxville, and now governor of Tennessee.

"Governor Haslam understands the special value to Tennessee and the nation of private colleges and universities," President Conn said when bestowing the honor. "He understands that, even when budgets are very tight, and his Republican instincts tend toward fiscal restraint, that some things, like the education of our young people, are just too important not to fund." Conn noted that Lee students received over \$900,000 in state grants this past year, allowing many of those graduates to finish college because of Haslam's commitment. "Governor Haslam is a conservative







leader who is able, and willing, to think about public policy issues in a strategic way, not in a conventional, knee-jerk partisan way, and that's one thing that makes him an exceptional leader."

Conn then called Haslam to the podium to accept the Doctor of Laws degree.

"The highest honor which a university can bestow on any individual is the awarding of an honorary doctorate," Conn said. "Lee University is not one of those institutions which awards honorary doctorates freely or indiscriminately. In fact, we have awarded such a degree only fourteen times in the past 25 years; only once before to a commencement speaker; and never before to an elected government official. But today, we wish to express ourselves to Governor Haslam in such a way."

Portions of the citation read:

"BECAUSE he has chosen for the past decade to invest his time, his energy, and his gifts in the service of others; and

BECAUSE he brings to his role in public life not merely excellent leadership skills, but also a commitment to principle and to our shared values which is thoughtful, intelligent, and consistent; and

BECAUSE in an environment of fierce political partisanship, he consistently has resisted the temptation to approach complex problems by ideological posturing, and has instead emphasized the possibilities of commonplace solutions; and

BECAUSE he models for our students a deep and genuine Christian discipleship which respects the diverse culture of a pluralistic society, while still embracing unapologetically his personal faith; and BECAUSE his example reminds us that the best life is the one

which is pursued with energy and excellence, for the good not of one-self but for the good of others. . .

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Lee University, I confer the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, to William Edward Haslam."

On Friday, December 14, the record-breaking class of 274 December graduates participated in a student-led Commissioning Service, where six graduates spoke of their Lee University experience. The honorees included Olumide Adedo from Lagos, Nigeria, who received a bachelors degree in business administration; Joseph A. D'Angelo of Miami, Florida, who received a degree in pastoral ministry; Eric D. Garner from Chattanooga, Tennessee, who earned a Master of Education in Classroom Teaching; Miami, Florida, resident Nicole Rodriguez, who received a degree in health science; Carrie Anna Spencer, an interdisciplinary studies major from High Point, North Carolina; and Carli Moore Stover from Thompson's Station, Tennessee, who was awarded a degree in communications with advertising emphasis.

Also leading the commissioning was Phillip Nitz, a Master of Church Music degree graduate who opened the service and led the hymn; Angela Spann, a middle grades education major, who offered the invocation; bachelor of music education degree graduates Kelsey Frost and Rachel Cooke, who provided special music; and human development major Christa Hutchinson, who concluded the ceremony with a benediction.

A highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of Bibles to each graduate, given by Campus Pastor Jimmy Harper and Dean of Students Alan McClung.

CAMPUS NEWS CAMPUS NEWS

Lee Will Seek Establishment of Nursing Program

ee University recently announced it will seek state Conn and authorized him to move forward. Lapproval to begin a nursing program.

The program will offer a four-year degree, the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). The target date for beginning the program is fall semester, 2014.

"We have many steps to take and much work to do before this becomes a reality," said President Conn. "This degree will, of course, require approval from various professional boards and agencies, but we are confident that we can bring the same level of excellence to a nursing program that has become the hallmark of our other degree programs."

The nursing start-up will be directed by Dr. Carolyn Dirksen, Lee's chief academic officer and chair of the task force authorized to take the steps necessary to accomplish this new goal.

The decision follows a positive recommendation from a feasibility committee also led by Dirksen, which has worked with a nursing education consultant and met with leaders in nursing education in this region. The Lee University Board of Directors heard a presentation from

As a first step in the process, Dirksen has begun a national search for a director of nursing who will be hired within the next few months and will direct the steps of the approval process, as well as begin recruiting potential nursing faculty.

Watch for updates in future issues of *Torch*.

Call for Applications

Lee University is seeking an experienced nursing leader to serve as the inaugural director of the Lee University School of Nursing. This position will provide a unique opportunity to shape Christian nursing education through Lee and through the dynamic health care delivery system of East Tennessee with hospitals and agencies in Cleveland, Chattanooga, and beyond Lee is seeking approval for two programs: the BSN and the RN to BSN. A doctorate in nursing and experience in directing a nursing program are required. Resumes and applications should be sent to Carolyn Dirksen, VPAA.

Lee Biology Professor Earns National Wildlife Award

The collaboration of Dr. Michael Freake, associate professor of biol-▲ ogy at Lee and other partners recently won the nationwide State Wildlife Action Plan Partnership Award. The partnership includes Lee, Middle Tennessee State University, and the Nashville Zoo. The awards were presented March 6 at a congressional reception in Washington, D.C.

The collaborative effort, called the Tennessee Hellbender Recovery Partnership (THRP), is focused on the Eastern Hellbender, a rare giant salamander found in area streams.

In the partnership, Freake coordinates field surveys in east Tennessee, handles all genetic analyses, and has worked with the Orianne Society to develop a new survey technique of testing river water samples for the presence of the hellbender DNA.

"For me, working on hellbenders is all about creating and sustaining partnerships with other experts in the field, because there are so many challenges to studying and managing our declining populations of hellbenders," Freake said. "It's definitely not a one-person show, and that is why we are all so delighted to receive this award."

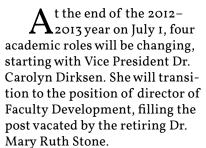
"The reasons we care about hellbenders is their uniqueness," Freake said. "Since they are completely aquatic and need clean, cool streams, they are a valuable indicator of water quality. If they disappear from our rivers, it is a clear message that all is not well. Our concern is that this may be the last generation of Tennessee residents who will have hellbenders in the wild."

--Brannon Roberts





Four Academic **Posts Changing** on July 1



Stepping into the vice president for Academic Affairs slot will be Dr. Deborah Murray, current dean of the Helen DeVos College of

Education. When she makes this move, Dr. Bill Estes, current chair of the Department of Health Education Science and Secondary Education (HESSE) will become dean over education, with Dr. Eric Moyen becoming the new department chair for HESSE.

The four faculty colleagues are taking this semester to acquaint themselves with their new posts.

When she vacates the vice presidential role, Dr. Dirksen will have spent 15 years as the chief academic officer at Lee, the longest anyone has served in that position in Lee's history. Joining the Lee faculty in 1968, she is in her forty-fifth year and has a lengthy resume of effective leadership roles during academic crossroads at Lee. Dirksen's list of accomplishments during her career at Lee is exceptional.

"Dr. Dirksen will continue as a full-time member of the academic leadership team in a role for which she has always had a great deal of passion and skill," President Conn stated upon making the announcement.

Dirksen's successor, Dr. Debbie Murray is no newcomer to the education faculty, having joined the faculty in 1980. She is the senior member of the academic leadership team, having served for the last 15 years as dean of the Helen DeVos College of Education.

During her tenure as dean, Murray led the school to









NCATE accreditation and JRC-AT national accreditation for its athletic training program. She has initiated the addition of such innovative programs as LUDIC (Lee University Developmental Inclusion Class), supervised the development of Lee's largest graduate programs, including the Ed.S. degree, established international student teaching sites in Africa, Asia, and Europe, and navigated the difficult politics of a shifting Tennessee K-12 certification environment.

"I believe Dr. Murray has the experience and talent to be an excellent Chief Academic Officer," Conn said of Murray's appointment.

Joining the Lee faculty in 1998, Dr. Bill Estes previously served as a teacher and principal and has been department chair for HESSE for the past ten years. In his relatively short tenure with Lee, he has garnered coveted faculty awards, including Excellence in Teaching. He is also making an impact in the Cleveland community, serving on the boards of the YMCA, Greenway, and Habitat for Humanity, and for the last six years, as a member of the Cleveland City Council.

Dr. Eric Moyen came to Lee in 2004 as an associate professor in the College of Education. He quickly established himself as a popular classroom professor and was appointed three years ago to lead the Office of First Year Programs—a critical part in the process of student retention at Lee.

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CAMPUS NEWS CAMPUS NEWS

Lee University Honored as a "College of Distinction"



Lee University is featured on www.collegesofdistinction.com, a website dedicated to honoring schools nationwide for their excellence in student-focused higher education.

"Schools designated as Colleges of Distinction create well-rounded graduates and are among the very best in the country," said Tyson Schritter, executive editor of Colleges of Distinction TM .

Colleges and universities are nominated for participation through high school counselors' recommendations, as well as

quantitative research. Once nominated, the colleges are assessed using four distinctions, including student engagement, quality of teaching, vibrancy of the college community, and success of graduates.

"We are pleased to have been selected as a College of Distinction for 2012–2013," said Vice President for Enrollment Phil Cook. "To be recognized in three separate categories, including College of Distinction, Tennessee College of Distinction, and Christian College of Distinction is a noteworthy accomplishment."

To view Lee's profile visit www.collegesofdistinction.com/college-profiles/TN-tennessee



Melton Named to Presidency of Religious Speech Communication

Dr. J. Matthew Melton, dean of Lee University's College of Arts and Sciences, assumed the office of president of the Religious Communication Association (RCA) at their annual business meeting on November 17. The meeting was part of the National Communication Association Conference in Orlando, Fla.

The RCA is an interfaith academic society founded in 1973 by people interested in the study of all aspects of public religious communication. Among its members are teachers, students, clergy, broadcasters, scholars, and professionals who share a common interest in religious speech, media, performance, and other communication.

Melton joined the Lee faculty in 1995 and has been dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Lee University since 2005. He has directed the Kairos Scholars Honors Program since 2003 and teaches in Humanities and Communication Studies.

Price Joins Education Faculty

 \mathbf{T} his semester Dr. Delia Price became the most recent addition to the faculty of the Helen DeVos College of Education.

Price, an assistant professor of education, came to Lee as a part-time faculty member in 2009, teaching in Early Childhood, Elementary, and Special Education. Prior to Lee, she worked in the Hamilton County (Tenn.) public school system for 25 years, serving as a middle school teacher and, later, a principal at the Tyner Middle Academy.

Price earned her doctorate and master's degree in education from Trevecca Nazarene University and her bachelor's degree from Tennessee Temple University.





Darlia McLuhan Conn Scholarship to Aid African Students

Lee University recently established the Darlia McLuhan Conn African Student Endowment Scholarship, a need-based scholarship for African students attending Lee.

Mrs. Conn, wife of Lee president, Dr. Paul Conn, was born in Saskatchewan, Canada.

In 1953, her father, Rev. M.G. McLuhan, accepted the challenge of leading Berea Bible Seminary, a struggling school in Kroonstad, South Africa, and moved there with his family for the next four years. After a furlough year back in Canada, the McLuhan family returned to Africa a second time, to Salisbury, Rhodesia (now called Harare, Zimbabwe). McLuhan finished his service in Africa in 1964 and moved his family back to the United States, at which time Darlia enrolled in Lee College.

Cofounder of the scholarship is Kelvin Tarukwasha, general manager of the food service provider at Lee, Sodexo. In 1997, Tarukwasha met M.G. McLuhan. Tarukwasha spoke of his grandfather's conversion saying, "In 1962, my grandfather was ordained to be a pastor. He pastored his first church in 1963. Before his passing in 2010, he led hundreds of people to Christ, and trained many pastors and various leaders. I grew up in a Christian home, but never really questioned how our family came to know and serve the Lord until I met Dr. McLuhan."

Conn said, "In a very practical way, this scholarship will continue the good work that God prepared for my parents to do in Africa so long ago, and seeds will continue to be planted. I believe that many years from now we will talk about the great African men and women that this scholarship helped. If only a few students are assisted, that is all we need to change the world."

—By Christian Downes



Thompson Presentation Is 'Best in Region'

Professor of Business Dr. Dewayne Thompson was awarded "Best in the Region" honors for his presentation, "A Business Ethics Framework: The Foundation of Corporate Social Responsibility," by the Southeastern Council of Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP).

ACBSP is a discipline-specific accrediting organization for schools and programs of business worldwide, consisting of ten regions. Lee belongs to its largest region. ACBSP selects one presentation from each area as "Best in the Region" to represent the region at the annual conference in June.

Thompson's presentation revolved around the ethics of business. He proposes that there is no closer relationship between the classroom and corporate social responsibility than the business ethics course. Thompson argues that although it is impossible to teach a student to be ethical, one can and should teach the student a disciplined approach to ethical decision making.

Thompson has served as the chair of the Department of Business at Lee since 2006 and is in his thirty-second year as a faculty member.

—Britain Miethe

CAMPUS NEWS

















Lee Faculty Members Given Tenure

Eight faculty members were recently awarded tenure by Lee's Board of Directors. They include James Frost, Mike Iosia, Stacey Isom, Bill Kamm, Sherry Kasper, Alexander Steffanell, Lisa Stephenson, and Christine Williams.

Frost became an assistant professor of music in 2007. He currently serves as director of the Opera Theatre and teaches applied voice. Frost earned his B.M. and M.M. in vocal performance from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and his B.B.A. from Southern Methodist University.

Dr. Iosia was welcomed to the Department of Health, Exercise Science, and Secondary Education as an assistant professor of exercise physiology in 2007. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Alabama, the M.Ed. from Auburn University, and his B.S. from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Isom became an assistant professor of creative writing for Lee's Department of Language and Literature in 2007. Her advanced degrees include the M.F.A. in Creative Writing from Old Dominion University.

Dr. Kamm became a faculty member in 2007 when he joined the Department of Early Childhood, Elementary, and Special Education as an assistant professor. Kamm earned his Ed.D. from Liberty University, his M.A. from Appalachian State University, and his B.S. from Concordia University.

Dr. Kasper became a faculty member of Lee's Department of Natural Sciences and Mathematics as an assistant professor of biology in 2007. Dr. Kasper earned her Ph.D. from the Wake Forest University School of Medicine and her B.A. from Maryville College.

Dr. Steffanell joined the Department of Language and Literature in 2007. Steffanell earned his Ph.D. from the University of Florida, his M.A. from the Miami University of Ohio, and the B.A. from Universidad del Atlantico, Colombia.

Dr. Stephenson joined the Department of Theology in 2007 as an assistant professor of systematic theology. She earned her Ph.D. from Marquette University in religious studies, and her M.A. and B.A. from Lee University.

Dr. Christine Williams joined Lee's Department of Communication Arts in 2007 as an assistant professor of theatre. Her degrees are the Ph.D. and M.A. from Bowling Green State University and her B.A. from the University of Dallas.



Drive to the NCAA:

Delegation Attends First National Conference

On January 16-19, President Paul Conn led a contingent of athletic personnel to Grapevine, Texas, to attend Lee's first NCAA National Convention. This annual event is open to all NCAA member institutions and features educational seminars, conferences, and national committee meetings, ending with the NCAA membership voting on legislative proposals during their annual business session.

Institutions like Lee in years one and two of the three-year membership process are required to attend a mandatory Division II Candidacy Meeting which was held on January 17. President Conn, Director of Athletics Larry Carpenter, Compliance Coordinator Paul Cretton, Senior Women's Administrator Andrea Hudson, and Faculty Athletic Representative Mark Wickam were in attendance at the meeting led by the Membership Committee and NCAA staff. Sessions included Presidential Involvement, Institutional Control, the NCAA Division II Institutional Self-Study Guide, and the Annual Report format. Championships, logos, and NCAA resources were also on the agenda.

The athletic staff met with members of the O&L Consulting firm on Wednesday morning to discuss Lee's first-year process.

"We spent the time asking questions and taking notes and came away energized and excited to get back to Cleveland and work on our Institutional Self-Study Guide (ISSG) and Annual Report," Carpenter stated. The 70 plus pages of documents will generate over a 1,000 pages of information that must be turned in to the NCAA June I. These first-year reports consist mainly of creating policies and procedures, and the Membership Committee will review the two reports and decide whether to allow Lee to move into the second year of the candidacy process or repeat year one, according to Carpenter.

"Our staff attended several NCAA Educational Sessions during the next two days, often separating so that we could take in as many seminars as possible," Carpenter continued. "We gathered a lot of information that will be helpful as we transition to DII, and we came away impressed with the professionalism of the NCAA staff and how eager they were to help. In fact, as we networked, we were amazed at the willingness of the NCAA schools to help with the first-year process."

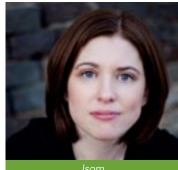
The delegation ended the convention by attending the Gulf South Conference (GSC) meeting on Friday afternoon. Commissioner Nate Salant and Dr. Judy Bense, president of West Florida University and chair of the Executive Committee, led the three-hour meeting. Members of the NCAA staff were invited to give presentations prior to conducting the conference business.

"We were once again impressed with the professionalism and courtesy that the conference members extended to us," Carpenter concluded. "We came away from the meeting excited about next year's conference schedules and what we hope is a long and successful membership in the GSC."

CAMPUS NEWS

















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SPORTS SPORTS



Penalty kicks are often a soccer team's worst nightmare, and that is exactly what happened to Coach Matt Yelton and his Lee Lady Flames in the semifinal round of the NAIA National Women's Soccer Championship.

After two halves and two overtime periods ended in a I-I tie, Olivet Nazarene (Ill.) outscored the Lady Flames 4-I in penalty kicks and ended a streak of four straight NAIA national titles by Lee's women.

Four Lady Flames were named firstteam All-Americans by the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). Juniors Ode Fulutudilu and Leah Fortune earned spots on the squad for the second straight year. Fulutudilu, a forward, recorded 10 goals and dished off 10 assists this season in helping Lee post a 20-I-2 record. Fortune, a midfielder, finished with a team-leading 16 goals and 10 assists. Fortune was also selected as the SSAC Player of the Year. Amy Cochran and Caroline Scales joined the list of 13 first teamers. Senior Kim Conrad and sophomore Laura Thacker were named to the second team.



Junior All-American Ode Fulutudilu, right, chases after a loose ball.

Two Assistants Tapped for Head Coaching Posts

Former Lee Volleyball Star Lands Top Job at Georgia College

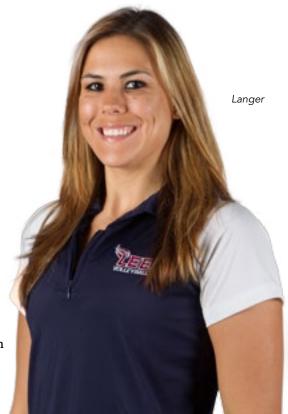
A ssistant volleyball coach and former NAIA All-American Bruna Langner recently resigned her position with the Lady Flames and will become the first head coach for volleyball in the reborn athletic program at Dalton (Ga.) State College.

According to Dalton State Athletic Director Derek Waugh, Langner will join three other coaches who have already been hired for men's basketball, tennis, and competitive cheerleading. The school is seeking a golf coach for both men and women and is also planning to add men's and women's cross country.

The Lady Roadrunners will begin play in 2013, but they will not be eligible for postseason play until 2014.

"Bruna's pedigree as a player and a coach helped her cause, but you do not hire people just on the basis of who they have been associated with," Waugh said in a press release from the college. "We are excited to have her on board, and once our funding is competitive with other teams nationally, I have no doubt she will have our team competitive nationally."

Langner, a native of Curitiba, Brazil, was a three-time NAIA All-American and has served as a full-time assistant coach of volleyball for the last three years. According to Coach Andrea Hudson, former Lady Flames standout Milica Krsmanovic has replaced Langner on the volleyball coaching staff.



Lady Flames' Walker Headed to North Alabama

Chris Walker, a Lady Flames assistant soccer coach for the past three seasons, has been named the new head coach at the University of North Alabama. Walker was an all-conference performer for the Lee men's soccer team.

UNA Athletic Director Mark Linder said, "Chris is a person of outstanding character and is an outstanding coach. He has recruited internationally and domestically in expanded regions from our current footprint, and we feel he can lead our program to continued success."

Lee head Coach Matt Yelton praised Walker's valuable work as his head assistant. "As much as I hate to lose Chris, I am very happy that he has the opportunity to move into a head coaching position."



SPORTS SPORTS

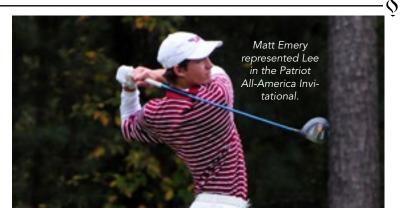
Golfers Prepare for 2013 Spring Season

The Lady Flames started the spring ranked No. 8 in the country by the NAIA, and Coach John Maupin is happy with that position. He feels it gives his club a chance to move up by the end of the year.

Individually, the Lady Flames had two players win medalist honors at tournaments in the fall—Courtney Shelton and Madison Alexander. Sloane Skinner made the all-tournament team at three of four tournaments.

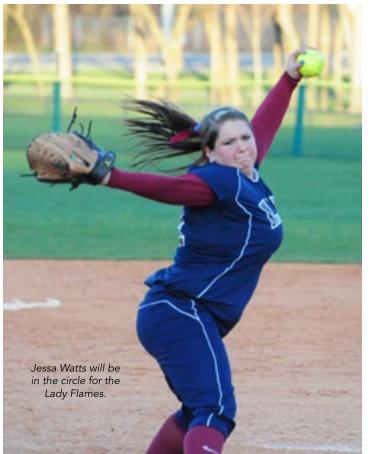
Coach Maupin says his men's golf team has always prided themselves on playing one of the toughest schedules in the country, and this spring will be no exception.

Juniors Matt Emery and Hunter Vest are consistently the best players. Emery was invited and took part in the Patriot All-America Invitational on December 29-31 in Phoenix. The invitation comes as a result of Emery being chosen as a NAIA/GCAA All-American at the end of last season. Invitations were extended only to a select group of qualifiers and issued through the Golf Coaches Association of America.





Madison Alexander wears a big smile after winning a playoff in the Lady Flames shootout.



Lady Flames Softball Ready to Battle for Title

The Lee softball team will continue to feature a talented group of athletes who are ready to battle for a national championship in their final season against NAIA competition.

The Lady Flames consist of returning first baseman Ana Coscorrosa, shortstop Jennifer Ringle, outfielder Savanna Bell, slugger Charlie Wooden, outfielder Dominique Hannah, third baseman Dezirae Parsons, and hurler Jessa Watts. Coach Emily Russell also has experience in the circle with Watts and Katie Deems, as well as Hannah Hight.

Russell is excited about her new crop of recruits. Depth is always a key, and Russell believes she is in excellent shape. "We have girls that can move from outfield to infield and vice versa. This gives us the ability to make the lineup with the strongest or hottest bats," she noted.

The SSAC will be very strong again, according to the coach. "Brenau tops the list now and is at No. 3 in the country followed by William Carey from the West and Auburn-Montgomery."



Lee Volleyballers Are SSAC Champs Again

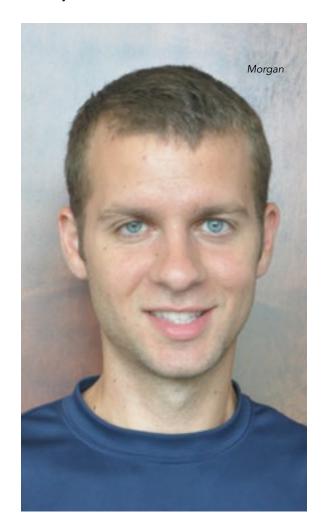
The Lady Flames celebrate their SSAC Championship.

A nother successful Lee volleyball season came to an end as the Lady Flames were defeated by Hastings College (Neb.) 3-1 in the first round of the single-elimination bracket at the NAIA National Tournament.

Junior Irene Ojuwku finished with a third consecutive double-double (14 kills, 10 digs). Sophomore Marija Zelenovic registered a team-high 17 attacks to help lead the Lady Flames offense. Freshman Nicole Sumida also

played a role, adding 12 slams of her own to go along with five blocks.

The year 2012 marked the eleventh appearance overall and fifth consecutive trip to the NAIA National Tournament for Lee. The Lady Flames finished the season with a record of 30-11 in their last year as members of the NAIA. Lee will make the jump to NCAA Division II beginning next season.



Caleb Morgan Named Head Coach for Cross Country, Track

Don Jayroe recently resigned his position as Lee University Head Cross Country and Track Coach. Jayroe took over the cross-country programs in 2007 and was instrumental in the formation of the track program and helped develop several All-Americans.

Lee Athletic Director Larry Carpenter announced Caleb Morgan has been named coach.

Morgan was in the midst of his first season as the assistant cross country and track coach when Jayroe submitted his resignation. He enjoyed a tremendous career as a Flame runner and graduated from Lee in the spring of 2011.

While at Lee, he became the first male to ever qualify and compete in the NAIA Indoor Track and Field Nationals. He also served as team captain for all four years and was a three-time outdoor track national qualifier. Morgan holds the school record for the indoor mile (4:17.1), the outdoor 1500m (3.59.03), and the outdoor 800m (1:55.4). His other running achievements include 2012 Tennessee State Half-Marathon Champion (1:14.09) and the 2011 Georgia 10 miler State Champion (53:48).

On the cross-country team, Mike Walker qualified for the NAIA Indoor Track Championships during the recent Niswonger Invitational. Brad Davis lowered both of his NAIA Championships qualifying times and set school records in the process.

Cayce Bryan, Jessica Childers, and Storyie Miller all competed in the Mile Run Invitational.

SPORTS SPORTS



Jenna Adams goes up against a UT-Chattanooga opponent

Lady Flames Take 27-2 Mark Into Tourney Play

The Lady Flames closed out the regular season with a stellar 27-2 record headed into tournament play in March.

Coach Marty Rowe said before the 2012–2013 season began that the Southern States Athletic Conference race would be one of the most challenging for his Lee women's basketball team.

"We must improve our execution on both ends of the court," Rowe said prior to SSAC tournament play, which began on February 27 in Montgomery, Ala. The NAIA National Championship will be decided in Frankfort, Ky., March 13-19.

The Lady Flames are a young club, but Julia Zimmerman and Brooke Hamby, a pair of seniors, are working overtime to improve their leadership roles. Junior Rachel Lockhart helps spark a Lee club that allows opponents only 53 ppg, while freshman Melanie Barker gets better with each game.



Senior guard Brooke Hamby was a leader for this year's Lady Flames.



Tommy Brown is in his eighth season as coach of the Flames.



Jamorris Gaines drives down the court.

Flames Finish Regular Season at #2

The Lee men's basketball team is ranked second nationally by the NAIA and is with a record of 28-2 and is headed into the postseason.

Coach Tommy Brown, who is in the midst of his eighth season of directing the Flames, is usually low-keyed about his clubs, but before the 2012–2013 campaign began, he admitted this could be his most talented team.

The Flames were behind only unbeaten Columbia College (Mo.) when they were ranked no. 2 at the end of January and stayed in the second spot until the regular season finale on February 26.

Brown has always taken great pride in his club's play on the defensive end of the playing court. Lee has also proven to be one of the more potent offensive teams in the NAIA. The Flames average 84 points per game and hold opponents to just 66. Six Flames average double-figure scoring with Senior guard Will Barnes (20.3 ppg) leading the way. Junior Jamorris Gaines, who joined the team in January, is posting a I6.4 scoring mark, while senior guard Chase Dunn is an 88 percent free throw shooter and pours in I3.3 ppg.

The Lee offense runs through senior point guard Duran Blue who has recorded 88 assists compared to only 38 turnovers.

Outstanding teams are usually remembered by the way they perform in postseason. The Southern States Athletic Conference began on February 27 in Montgomery, Ala. and the NAIA National Championship is slated for March 13-19 in Kansas City, MO.



Tennis Teams Look to Improve

The Lee tennis teams are looking to put together their best year ever in what will be their final campaign as members of the NAIA and SSAC.

The Lee ladies finished with a record of 9-8 last year. Coach Tony Cavett will look to senior Tarah Garner, who played No. 3 singles and No. 2 doubles a year ago, and junior.

"The key to this year's team is experience," noted Cavett. "They know what to expect and will be able to meet the challenges of the tough matches."

The Lee men's tennis team will look to improve on a 9-7 mark which was good enough for a second-place finish in the SSAC East Division. The 2013 Flames will be led by team captain Richard Gamble, Fabio Medina and Kevin Tan.

"I believe we will have a more balanced lineup this year from top to bottom," Cavett said. "There is a scramble for the top singles and doubles positions on this year's squad."



As the Lee baseball team heads into its final season in the Southern State Athletic Conference and as a member of the NAIA, Head Coach Mark Brew says he will prepare his club like it is just another year.

"The process of being a good team is all we can control," he commented.
"We will focus on our attitudes and effort at practice every day. If we come to practice every day with the purpose of getting better, we have a chance to be a very good team."

As has been the case in recent years, Lee was listed among the best (third) in the NAIA Preseason Coaches Poll. "I think the rankings speak volumes about how other coaches view our program," said Brew. "Though it is nice recognition, every team has to go out and make its own identity and can't live in the accolades of the past."

Brew likes those he has returning, especially in the outfield. Senior Corey Davis had an All-American season in 2012. Gold Glove center-fielder Brady Renner is back for his senior season. Trevor Burgess is looking to pick up where he left off, while Cameron Brewster gained big game experience last season.

In the infield, the Flames returned third baseman Roberto Duran and Senior Mike Fasolo will work at first base. Returning pitchers are led by José Samayoa, Andy Hillis, David Eskew, Alex Moore, and Ryan Zimmer. Catchers are Jordan Stewart, Josh Tate and Danny Canela.

New recruits in pitching are led by Myles Smith, Clint Terry, Jeremy Stawychny, Keegan Yuhl, CJ Lusted, Mike Guinane, Jeremy Bales Jordan Gee.

"I really like the chemistry of the team. They work hard and seem to get along together great," emphasized the head coach. "I think team chemistry is ever evolving, and we need to maintain great camaraderie throughout the season."

2012

Thank you to Lee alumni and friends who gave generously in 2012. The year ending December 31, 2012, was a period of faithful support despite a challenging economic environment. In a rare nonbuilding year, overall alumni giving was

strong at \$595,000.

Of particular note was growth in the endowed scholarship program. In 2011, for the first time in school history, Lee raised more than \$1 million in a calendar year. In 2012, alumni and friends helped the school break even that record by pushing the single-year total to more than \$2 million. With an overall endowment increase of more than 19 percent, Lee students are the real beneficiaries of your generosity.

The 2012 Alumni Fund continued to successfully provide important discretionary dollars. Over the last ten years, this reliable source of support has delivered more than \$3 million for campus development, endowed scholarships, and overall university transformation. We are excited to announce that AF13 will be used to help build the new state-of-the-art Communications Building.

One of the greatest challenges the University faces in 2013 is convincing alumni of their own power as a group. Alumni support at any level is important. For example, a consistent annual gift of \$100 from just onethird of alumni would provide more than \$1 million a year to strengthen the university. We can do that.

In 2013, I want to challenge all Lee alumni to not only give, but also recruit a fellow alumnus to give. I want to ask you to ask one other alum "Are You In?" Let them know that \$100 can spark a revolution.

Lee University has an incredible destiny yet ahead, but not without you. Thank you for your support in 2012, and thank you for your faithful support as we move forward together.

- Ierome Hammond Vice President for University Relations ANNUAL ALUMNI FUND LIST 2012 ANNUAL ALUMNI FUND LIST 2012

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Lastoria Named New Alumni Fund Director

In fall 2012, Lee University introduced Anthony Lastoria '08 as the director of the Annual Alumni Fund. After completing his B.A. in Business Administration, Anthony began working in Cleveland for the multinational banking giant HSBC. In 2009, he and his wife, Lauren '08 relocated to Nashville, Tenn., where Anthony accepted a position with Apollo Group, Inc. As an academic counselor at Apollo, he received multiple management awards, including the Leadership Medallion, Leadership Division Award, and Leadership District Award. While at Lee, Anthony was a member of Alpha Gamma Chi and Lee Singers.

"Lauren and I are thrilled to be back at Lee," Anthony says. "Like our fellow alumni around the country, we believe deeply in the mission of Lee and are very excited to be a part of it in this way."

When asked about his goals for the Alumni Fund, Lastoria says, "Well, the practical answer is that we have a state-of-the-art Communications building going up and we need everyone on board for that project. But in a larger way, I think one of my predecessors summed it up well when she said 'Lee is an "I'm in" school.' Now more than ever before, we want alumni to catch the vision of what Lee can be. The immediate goal in directing the Alumni Fund is to raise money, certainly, but if even 1-in-3 alumni put their feelings into action with a gift of \$100, we'll raise more than \$1 million annually. That is the power of what we can do together. Let's keep dreaming. Let's keep planning. Let's keep working together."



Ms. Leah Fleming

Mr. Matthew E. Bowen

Mr. lason Bowers

Mrs. Betty Bowers

Alumni Running Events Continue in 2013



More than 700 participated in the 65 Roses 5K and Great Strides Walk in 2012.



Lee alumni runners gather for a group photo in Centennial Park prior to 2012 Country Music Marathon.





Alumni who love walking or running will again have no shortage of events that cater to them and are sponsored by their alma mater. Three signature events have been part of the Lee calendar for the last several years, and this year will be no exception.

The first will be the annual 65 Roses 5K and Great Strides Walk for Cystic Fibrosis. The fund-raiser will be conducted on Saturday, April 13, on the Lee campus. Multiple sponsors are on board, and the numbers continue to grow. Last year, as Lee celebrated ten years of sponsoring the event, more than 700 runners and walkers participated helping push the total amount raised in the last decade to more than \$500,000. The 5K (3.1 mile) course is certified and takes in the Lee campus and downtown Cleveland, with a finish line at the Paul Conn Student Union. Participants of the race are treated to a "goody bag" of treats which this year will include a visor designed especially for the event. To register, visit www.leeuniversity.edu/cf.

Two weeks after Great Strides, alumni are invited to participate in the St. Jude Country Music Marathon in Nashville on Saturday, April 27. The massive running event attracts more than 30,000 annually and since 2007, the Lee Alumni Office has sponsored an alumni "Pasta Pig Out" the night before the race. This year the event will be held at Buca Di Beppo restaurant in Cool Springs on Friday, April 26 at 6:00 p.m. The event is free to marathon and half marathon participants and comes with a goody bag of items from Lee, including a moisture wicking T-shirt. Runners are invited to send their RSVP to the Lee Alumni Office by Wednesday, April 25, to reserve your place at the table!

Finally, don't forget to start your day of activities at Homecoming this year with a 5K run on Saturday, November 2! The event will follow the same course as 65 Roses. All registered participants will receive a commemorative T-shirt.

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If You Attended Lee, You're an Alum!

A common misconception is that if you didn't graduate from Lee, you're not an alumnus (male) or alumna (female). The truth is, all that is required is at some point to have enrolled in classes, and you're part of Lee University alumni, no matter when you were here!

Help us hear from you.

Send us your news: weddings, special anniversaries, new jobs, promotions, educational accomplishments, retirements, births, awards... you name it! We would love to showcase your pictures as well. Don't forget to include the last year you attended Lee.

The easiest way is to visit www.leeuniversity. edu, click on the Alumni and Friends link and then "alumni updates." You can also email your update and photos to @leeuniversity.edu" torch@ leeuniversity.edu or mail your entry to . . .

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

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Dudley Pyeatt '50, Linda Clark, Paulette Lewis, Charlie Lewis, Stephanie Lewis Taylor '84, Diana Gaddy Gupton, '73, and Roger Gupton '58 took a copy of *Torch* with them to read to the terracotta warriors during a recent visit in Xian, China.



From Left: Dudley Pyeatt, Linda Clark, Paulette Lewis, Charlie Lewis, Stephanie Lewis Taylor, Diana Gaddy Gupton, Roger Gupton

WHO'S WHERE WHO'S WHERE

1950s-1970s

Joe Sikes '53 passed away November 15, 2012, at Hospice House in Sumterville, Fla., due to Parkinson's Disease. Joe was 81 when he died and was married to Mary. They have two daughters.

Paul H. Lauster '59 passed away February 7, 2013, in his native Germany. Services were held at the Krehwinkel Church on February 14. He was a Church of God missionary for over 50 years and served in a variety of leadership roles around the world. He is survived by his wife, Lilli, three daughters, and five grandchildren.

Bill Avery '66 is joined by his daughter, Amanda Avery McConnell '04 and his grandchildren in Nebraska where Bill is a state senator. Amanda is employed with the Lee University post office. During Christmas, the four of them donned Lee shirts and posed with *Torch* in Avery's office at the state legislature.

Candace Gentry '71 is a missionary to the Rift Valley Academy in Kijabe, Kenya. Candace says, "This position as a dorm mom and teacher of missionary children is the most fulfilling position I've ever worked." She spent the last year in the United States on furlough and will return to Kenya for another four years in April 2013.

Kevin Brooks '90 and his wife, Kim, along with son Zach and daughter Elizabeth (both current Lee students), enjoy *Torch* and Christmas in Orlando. The family lives in Cleveland, Tenn.

Terrie Bayles '92 and her husband, Lee faculty member Bob Bayles, recently traveled to Guangzhou, China, at the U.S. Embassy where they adopted their daughter, Yana, age 6, from Nanjing, China. They were accompanied by their daughter, Abby.

Dawn Elizabeth Holt '99 was serving her country in the Navy in Naples, Italy, where she was killed January 24, 2013, in an automobile accident. According to Stars and Stripes, Dawn was heading to the Capodichino base to work her regular night shift as a logistics specialist at the Naples Fleet mail center when the collision occurred. She is survived by her mother, stepfather, and four sisters.

Katie Beam '00 has been named marketing director for Wall Street Conyers Office Condominiums in Conyers, Ga. Previously, Katie was sales manager at Olde Town Times. She is a member of the First Baptist Church of Conyers, and volunteers with Gentle Hope and Team Boling—an effort to support those coping with ALS. She lives in Oxford, Ga. with her husband, Jackie, and their four children.

















Gambill

Danielle York-Garland '00 lives in Ooltewah, Tenn. where she works as an assistant vice president at Community Trust & Banking Company as the BSA/compliance officer. She received Certified Regulatory Compliance Manager (CRCM) credentials in November 2012.

Corey Divel '01 is the new planner for the City of Cleveland, Tenn. He was the Bradley County Planner for the past seven years. He began working with the county as a case manager in Juvenile Court for families with at-risk youth and served as Y-Community Action Program director from 2003 to 2005.

Chrystal Fleming Wasdin '01 lives in Atlanta with her husband, Scott. After teaching in Cleveland, Tenn. and Chattanooga, she and Scott moved to California where their two sons were born. Crystal is now taking some time off from teaching to be with the boys while Scott is the high school and middle school dean at Oak Mountain Academy.

Nicole Diamond Darling '02 lives in Battle Creek, Mich. with her husband, Ted, and their daughter. Nicole says, "I had a wonderful experience at Lee. I made new friends for life and developed relationships with instructors who care about your success. Most of all, I learned new things about the Bible and different religions. It amazes me how much Lee has grown each time I visit! How awesome!"

Jeff Norton '02 recently accepted the pastorate of Northridge Fellowship in Jerome, Idaho. He lives there with his wife, Caron, and their four children.

Justin Graham '03 recently returned to his hometown, Morristown, Tenn., where he has planted a new church—The Avenue. Justin said he was drawn to Lee by Campus Choir and the late Dr. David Horton. "The things I learned from Dr. Horton changed my life...I received God's call to go into full-time ministry." Justin met his wife, Melissa Grant, at Lee, and they have two children. The website for the church is www.theavenuemorristown.com.



Matthew Gambill '04 is executive director of the Georgia Association of Career and Technical Education where he works closely with educators, administrators, legislators, and the governor to advocate for career-minded education in Georgia schools.

He lives in Cartersville, Ga., with his wife, Danae Roberts Gambill, and their two children. Matthew was recently recognized in GeorgiaTrend's "40 Under 40" and was named New Board Member of the Year by the Georgia Area Council of the Boys & Girls Clubs.

Natasha Colbaugh '06 was recently hired as a reporter for the Catoosa County News (Ga.). Previously, she wrote for the LaFollette Press in northeast Tennessee for five years where she earned multiple state and regional awards for writing and photography, including a first-place award for photography from the Tennessee Press Association. She lives in Ringgold, Ga. with her husband and two children.

Jennifer Looney Ezell '06 lives in Cartersville, Ga., with her husband, Mike, and their two children. Jennifer recently completed a master's degree. She teaches and leads worship at The Church at Liberty Square in Cartersville. Jennifer says, "I loved my life at Lee. Those were some of the best years of my life, and I will cherish them forever!"

Micah Massey '08 tied for Best Contemporary Christian Music song—"Your Presence Is Heaven"—at the 55th annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles held on February 10, 2013. Here, Micah is joined by cowriter Israel Houghton backstage at the Grammy Awards.

Alex Sturgill '08 recently relocated to Orlando, Fla., to take a job with the Golf Channel, part of the NBC Sports Group. He works in studio operations for "Morning Drive," which is live seven days a week.

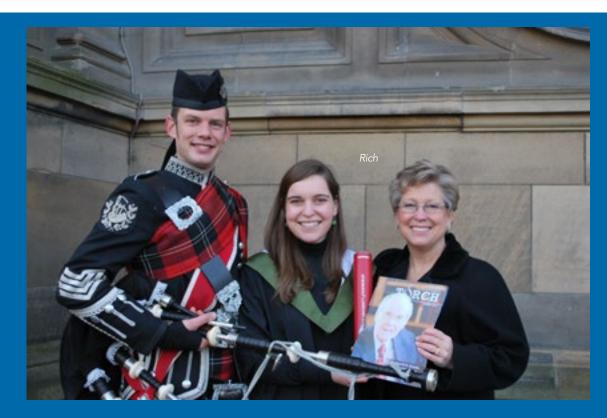




James Gann Jr. '10 found himself in front of Grauman's Chinese Theater in Hollywood with a copy of *Torch* while he was in town to tape an episode of Wheel of Fortune, on which he was a contestant. James' day job is director of the Eagleton Elementary School Music Department, as well as music director at St. John United Methodist Church. James is from Maryville, TN.

Guillermo Mendoza Jr. '11 was recently appointed senior pastor of the Iglesia de Dios Munger Place in Dallas, Tex. He and his wife, Lourdes, have three children.

Angela Shope Morgan '11 is a second grade teacher at Mayfield Elementary in Cleveland, Tenn. Angela says, "I loved all the support and help from the Education Department. Lee believed in me, and I am thankful daily for my time there."



Anna Rich '11 graduated last November with a master of science degree in ethics from the University of Edinburgh. Her mom, Anita Owens Rich '80 travels with a particular copy of the *Torch*—one bearing the cover photo of her favorite professor, Dr. Robert O'Bannon. Anna does the same, but with the issue featuring one of her favorites, Dr. Don Bowdle, whose photo is on the cover. In honor of Dr. Bowdle, Anna posed with *Torch* at her graduation from Edinburgh last year, the same

Scottish university where Bowdle did a postdoctoral fellowship. Anna says, "Dr. Bowdle was a strong support during my application there. He once told our class that he could write recommendations that would get us into heaven, which I believe! I am proud to add the University of Edinburgh as an alma mater, but my heart will always belong to Lee. I was honored to represent our great institution at one of the best universities in the world."

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