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ON THE COVER:

The new women's lacrosse team joins together in unity before their first game on February 18.

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"PEAKING" OUT THE LEE SKYLINE

With the addition of three new cupolas on the south side of campus, the Lee skyline is being defined by these new spires, jutting over the landscape.



OPENING THOUGHTS FROM PRESIDENT PAUL CONN

THE MOTHER OF ALL BIRTHDAY PARTIES

In 2018, Lee University will celebrate its 100th anniversary. We plan a year-long birthday party, and I hope some part of it will include everyone in our Lee family!

We began our first institutional "baby steps" on January 1, 1918. New Year's Day is not a very good time for a big celebration, of course, so we won't try to observe our anniversary on that actual date. But shortly afterward, when students return to campus and the year is underway, we will mark the beginning of our Centennial Year in a special chapel on campus. Over the course of the calendar year, we will mark the hundred years in many different ways, involving students, faculty, alumni, the local Cleveland community,

and our peers throughout the academic community. We plan to wrap up everything with a major public event which will coincide with Homecoming Week, October 28 – November 4, 2018.

Although the beginning of the Centennial Year is several months away, we are already discussing and planning how to design this "Mother of All Birthday Parties!" We have a Planning and Steering Committee at work on ideas, and 75 Lee administrators spent our 24-hour spring retreat in mid-March getting a crash course in Lee history and generating ideas for how we might celebrate this occasion.

We want ideas from alumni too. We have never done this before, and of course, none of us will ever do it again. Although Lee University has certainly

developed a culture of celebration, we haven't reached such a gigantic milestone, and we want to plan lots of ways, large and small, that we can mark the Centennial. Will you email me and let me know if you have suggestions? I would love to hear them and share them with our Planning Committee. What can we do that will give you and every other alum, from all the generations of the Lee family, a way of participating in this important occasion?

The year 2018 will be a time of looking back, a time of taking stock, a time of remembering and nostalgia. Most of all, it will be a time to express our thanks to God for this wonderful hundred-year journey He has brought us on. I hope you will join me in looking forward to it and planning to make it a worthy celebration!



WRAPPING UP *FIND US FAITHFUL*

Read a final report on the five-year capital campaign that has been declared the most successful in Lee's 99-year history.



WOMEN MAKING THEIR MARK

With the debut of the newest intercollegiate team, lacrosse, a record-setting group of runners, and a basketball team that advanced in the playoffs, women's athletics at Lee is doing more than keeping up with the boys.



SERVING IN SWAZILAND

Meet Lee alumna **ANNA CARMICHAEL '12** and read about the amazing work she and her husband are accomplishing in the tiny African nation.

A QUARTER CENTURY OF DIXON CENTER

The facility that has transformed the Lee experience turns 25 this year.



The last 25 years have brought momentous changes on the Lee University campus. Among them have been buildings that altered the landscape, not just physically, but experientially.

In the fall of 1992, a 500-seat theatre building opened its doors and the Lee University experience has not been the same since. At the time, the Dixon Center was a "stretch" when the two priority construction items most needed in that era of explosive growth were dormitories and classroom buildings. Why build a venue for drama when there was Conn Center, which had a larger stage and more capacity? Why concentrate funds and efforts toward a discipline that was not

even a major (drama), or a discipline that was not yet even a department (Communications)?

The question of the need for additional performance space would perhaps be answered indirectly when, in later years, as the campus continued to expand, several more intimate spaces would come into existence, such as Squires Recital Hall, Oates Black Box Theatre, and Pangle Hall. One might argue The Chapel could be included as well.

However, Dixon Center's value to the Lee experience is measured best in its consistent record of delivering in two key areas: (1) a stage for student drama productions, and (2) classical concert performances. Every year for the past quarter

century there have been at least two student-led theatre productions and as many as seven classical concerts or lectures as part of the Presidential Concert Series. In addition, almost since its opening, Dixon has been a secondary "alternative" chapel space where students can choose to attend a less traditional chapel service than what is offered in Conn Center. It has also been a dependable overflow venue during major events, such as commencement, where friends and extended family can view the event live via satellite.

The Dixon Center was designed to accommodate performances, and it has delivered in spectacular and dependable fashion for a quarter century.

H. BERNARD DIXON



Twenty-five years ago, Dixon Center was the linchpin of the *Higher Ground* campaign, a capital fund drive, which also gave us the Watkins Building and DeVos Recreation Center. It is named for H. Bernard and Starr Dixon, among the most consistent and loyal friends in Lee's rich history of benefactors, and the couple who gave the lead gift in the Higher Ground campaign. This past August 1, H. Bernard (Hal) Dixon became the first "emeritus" member of the

Lee University Board of Directors, a body he has served on since 1982. He has been chairman of the Construction Surveillance Committee since 1987. During the last thirty years of expansion of the Lee campus, Hal Dixon supervised the construction of every major project, except the School of Religion building (2008), when he was on a year-long leave from his board duties. He retired from his board leadership position in 2015, at the beginning of the School of Nursing project.

“When the Dixon Center opened, communications was just a tiny program on campus. In 1996, the Dixon Center provided a home for the newly formed Communication Arts Department, where it developed for the next eighteen years. The building was not initially intended to house an academic department, so we had to figure out how to make it work as we grew. The determination to make the most of what we have is central to the spirit of this department and to Lee. Today, Communication Arts is one of the largest departments on campus, and it is still carrying on the tradition of excellence that was formed in the Dixon Center years.”

—Dr. Joel Kailing, chairman, Department of Communication Arts



Vice President of Business and Finance Chris Conine is enjoying a new office in the space formerly occupied by a production studio

While Dixon Center is best known for its performance stage, its northern wing quietly nurtured the blossoming Communication Arts Department. Back in 1992 the latest in video production facilities and equipment was installed, in the days when VHS was king. The Dixon Center was home to the department until the new Communication Building opened in 2014.

By then, the number of students, programs, faculty, and technology had long outgrown the handful of faculty offices, two classrooms, and outdated video production capabilities at Dixon.

With the move out of Communications two years ago, Dixon Center's northern space had been in limbo, particularly the second floor northwest corner which had housed the studio and productions. Late last year, a major renovation of the space was undertaken and is now home to the Business and Finance office. Vice President Chris Conine and his immediate staff have relocated from their previous space on the first floor of the Higinbotham Administration Building, a space they have occupied since the President's Office moved to the Vest Building in 1988. Other offices currently located in Dixon's northern space are Special Projects/Events, Study Abroad, and the dean of Arts and Sciences.

25 YEARS OF DIXON CENTER THEATRE PRODUCTIONS



TREASURE ISLAND
2015



DRACULA
2016

- 1992 **ARSENIC AND OLD LACE**
- 1993 **STEEL MAGNOLIAS, TEN LITTLE INDIANS, ROMEO AND JULIET**
- 1994 **GODSPELL, THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK**
- 1995 **THE LION THE WITCH & THE WARDROBE, THE CURIOUS SAVAGE, MY FAIR LADY**
- 1996 **THE CRUCIBLE, CATACOMBS, TRAVELING LIGHT, ANNIE**
- 1997 **WHAT TIME I AM AFRAID, FIDDLER ON THE ROOF**
- 1998 **WEST SIDE STORY, YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU, COTTON PATCH GOSPEL, THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS**
- 1999 **THE FOREIGNER, THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE ABRIDGED**
- 2000 **JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT, CHARLEY'S AUNT**
- 2001 **YOU'RE A GOOD MAN CHARLIE BROWN, THE BEVERLY HILLBILLIES**
- 2002 **A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, BOYS NEXT DOOR**
- 2003 **TWELVE ANGRY JURORS, FINIAN'S RAINBOW**
- 2004 **HONK, VAIN, HAMLET**
- 2005 **FATHER OF THE BRIDE, OUR TOWN**
- 2006 **ANTIGONE, OLEANNA, ROGERS AND HAMMERSTEIN'S CINDERELLA, FLOWERS FOR ALGERNON**
- 2007 **ENCHANTED APRIL, TWO ROOMS, THE CHAIRS**
- 2008 **PRIDE AND PREJUDICE, THE MACH BAND PREDICAMENT, THE TROJAN WOMEN**
- 2009 **AN IDEAL HUSBAND, YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU**
- 2010 **THE LAST NIGHT OF BALLYHOO, ALMOST, MAINE**
- 2011 **MY FAIR LADY, TARTUFFE**
- 2012 **SEE HOW THEY RUN, BIG RIVER**
- 2013 **SABRINA FAIR, 33 VARIATIONS**
- 2014 **MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING, ALL MY SONS**
- 2015 **THE SECRET GARDEN, TREASURE ISLAND**
- 2016 **THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK, DRACULA**
- 2017 **OLIVER**



THE SECRET GARDEN
2015



**ROGERS AND HAMMERSTEIN'S
CINDERELLA**
2006





CUPOLAS, CONES, & CAPS

**NO MATTER WHAT YOU CALL THEM,
THEY NOW POPULATE THE LEE SKYLINE.**

BY **CAMERON FISHER**

It wasn't too long ago the highest points on the Lee campus were the arched peaks of the entrances and rooflines of primary buildings: Higginbotham, Vest, Walker Memorial, and Medlin Hall. The tallest structure was no more than three stories. While collegially pleasing, there are few character-defining aspects of these buildings.

In 1947, Lee acquired what was originally the Centenary College campus. At the time, its signature structure was what Lee students of that era remember as "Old Main." Built in the 1880s, Old Main was the primary structure of Centenary. It more than covered the footprint of where the Higginbotham Administration Building now stands and was a regal representation of

the Old South architecture of the period. By the time Lee bought the current campus, Old Main had been through decades of trauma and neglect, including a fire that gutted it in the early 1900s. The building had sporadic use and was eventually deemed a safety hazard, so it came as no surprise when it was razed in 1963 for a new, more modern structure.

A memorable feature of Old Main was a conical tower at its southern edge. The tower rose taller than Old Main itself, and it was a favorite subject of sketches and photo opportunities in the 16 years the tower stood on Lee's campus. This photo was taken from the 1962 Lee Vindagua, the year before Old Main came down, and along with it, the South Tower. Other than a smokestack at the rear of the old dining hall, Old Main's South Tower was the tallest peak on campus.



Seventy years after the South Tower of Old Main was introduced to that fall 1947 class of students, there is now a new peak, destined to become the subject of "selfies" of students and alumni alike. The Forum, a \$1 million ten-story bell and clock tower, is in the last stages of completion on the south side of campus. Under construction since last summer, it is now the highest point on the Lee campus and one of the highest in Cleveland (see feature)

THE CLOCK TOWER

Twenty-three years ago the first of several distinctive “peaks” of the modern era was introduced with the construction of the Clock Tower on the north end of campus. In a fundraiser spearheaded by the members and alumni of Upsilon Xi, the four-sided clock was an instant hit with the campus when it was completed in February 1994. Students came to rely on its familiar chimes as they headed to classes and events.

While the Clock Tower was free standing, the next skyline-defining peak would be Lee’s first experiment into cupolas on buildings. In 1998 the Helen DeVos College of Education was constructed and a small, white, prefabricated cupola similar in form to the top portion of the Clock Tower was placed on the roofline. Compared to what was to

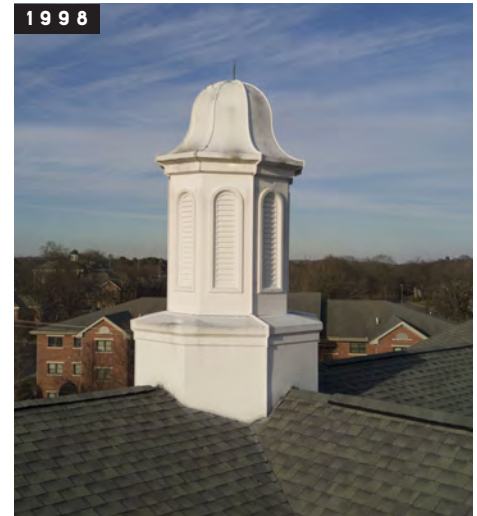


follow, it was rather mundane; but it was a start.

Technically, Lee’s first cupola on one of its buildings was the main administration building on the former Sevierville, Tennessee, campus, a structure inherited

HELEN DeVOS

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION



from Murphy Collegiate Institute when it was purchased in 1938 and became home to Lee’s forerunner, Bible Training School. That main building—and cupola—still stand today as part of the Smoky Mountain Children’s Home.



PAUL CONN STUDENT UNION

At the turn of the millennium, Lee peaks began to define the character of new construction, taking over as the focal point of the buildings. The peaks would be incorporated in the construction and designed to be the central architectural feature of each building. The Paul Conn Student Union, completed in 2000, was the first in this new era and was topped off by the most elaborate cupola in Lee’s history. More than a cupola,

the PCSU’s peak was the first true bell tower on the campus and, until the unveiling of The Forum this month, the only one. While the Clock Tower chimes, the PCSU tower has actual “coronation bells,” anchored by one 2,600-pound antique bell and four smaller bells, custom-crafted for the PCSU tower. The topping of the PCSU tower was another first: the first to receive a copper skin, a trend that would define every peak from then on.



BOWDLE & O'BANNON

In 2002, the first, and still the only dormitory to sport a cupola, was built on the north end of campus. The side-by-side residence halls of Bowdle and O'Bannon are joined in the middle by a common lobby, the roof of which supports a magnificent cupola, complete with multiple windows.

CLOCK TOWER #2 HUMANITIES CENTER

Two years later a second clock tower was added to the central campus landscape with the dominant copper cone cap of the Humanities Center. The tower is one of the tallest points on campus, and students have come to rely on its clock faces to get them to class on time.

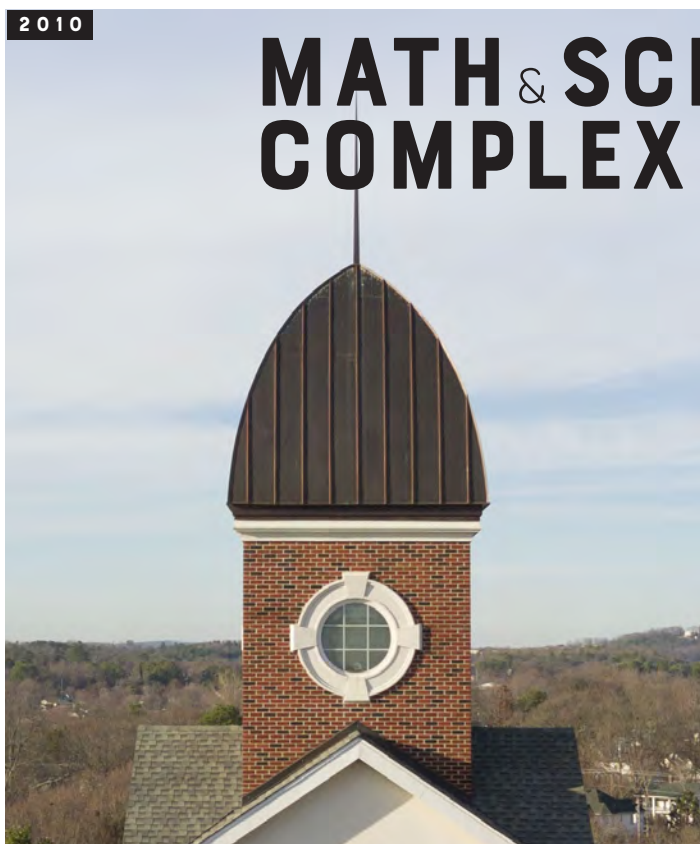


THE SCHOOL OF RELIGION

The School of Religion (circa 2008) is the only campus building to combine a copper dome topped by a cupola as its dynamic architectural feature.



MATH & SCIENCE COMPLEX



In 2010, the Math and Science Complex was dedicated, and its dominant feature greets the southbound traffic on Ocoee Street with a massive tower that rivals The Forum as the highest point on campus. It is topped with a square, cone-shaped copper dome.

2016



SCHOOL OF NURSING

Last year, as one of its final building highlights, the new School of Nursing received a large cupola, lifted by crane onto its previously constructed base.

2015



Pangle Hall, Lee's newest performance venue, is the repurposed former First Baptist Church. The previous steeple that topped the facility was ceremoniously removed and replaced in 2015 with a new, more traditional cupola, similar to the square cone-shaped topper of the Math and Science Complex.



2011

THE CHAPEL

The Chapel, completed in 2011, dons the only peak classified as a steeple on campus and joins other iconic steeples located in the downtown of Cleveland.



The placement of the shiny copper top was a media event when it took place in February.



President Conn stands among the bells before they were lifted into the tower last fall.

THE FORUM: HIGHEST PEAK ON CAMPUS

With its shiny new copper top, The Forum has been a highly anticipated addition to both the campus and community, as it can be spotted from points all over town.

At 130 feet tall, The Forum's construction has been of interest to everyone who frequents the Lee campus and the downtown area. Its location between Church and Parker Streets and in the middle of what used to be 6th Street, the new landmark has been followed by onlookers as it has risen higher and higher since ground was broken last fall.

The Forum promises to be "the" gathering spot for outdoor activities, including concerts and perhaps graduation someday. With its upper level staging area, there is ample space for performances and/or speakers to deliver. It will be complete with ample power and lighting and will be visible from miles away, day or night.

Two rare photo opportunities were staged during construction as a massive crane first lifted a set of nine bells into the top portion of the Forum in November, and then on February 9, the crane returned to top off the structure with a cone-shaped copper roof.

"It is a wonderful occasion," President Paul Conn told the *Cleveland Daily Banner* when the bells were being hoisted into place. "We designed (and have been working) on this tower for about the last year and a half." Conn went on to explain

that the bells made quite an extensive journey prior to arriving at Lee.

"These bells are antique bells that were cast in 1870 by a foundry called the Troy Foundry, in Troy, New York," Conn said. "A church in Minnesota, which was razed, last used them. There is a company in Cincinnati, the Verdin Company, which recaptures old bells, cleans them up, and resells them. This is the same company which supplied the university with the bells that were placed in the student union tower 16 years ago."

"The Forum will be a plaza with brick pavers and park benches, and the center of it will be the bell and clock tower. It will be a place for people to gather," Conn added.

"We ordered these bells in March 2016, so since then, we've known exactly what bells we were getting and where they were coming from. When these bells were first cast and hung, Ulysses S. Grant was president of the United States."

The Forum is a million-dollar project, Conn explained, with funding provided by a single donor, a couple from North Carolina.

The total weight of the bells is 9,000 pounds, with the largest, the tolling bell, weighing in at 2,500 pounds. Including the structure, around 11,000 pounds were hoisted 115 feet to be placed in the tower. There are eight pitched bells, a full octave, which becomes a carillon; so The Forum will be able to play melodies.



About the photos: Photos of the peaks in this feature were captured by photographer, Jonathan Smith, whose drone-mounted camera was able to get closer than any camera has in the past, revealing intricate details and angles unable to be seen before.

SCHOOL OF
NURSING
2016

PANGLE
HALL
2014

COMM
BUILDING
2014

THE
CHAPEL
2011

NEW
HUGHES
2011

FIRST
BAPTIST
2010

JANUARY DONATION
WRAPS UP

FIND US FAITHFUL CAMPAIGN

The official “celebration” took place last September, but the five-year *Find Us Faithful* capital campaign is winding down in early 2017 with a flurry of new gift announcements. One of these is a joint contribution of \$100,000 from Regions Bank and Regions Foundation in January. The gift will help fund the expansion of the south campus—one of the emphases of the campaign.

“We are glad when we can step up and help with projects like this and partner with neighboring businesses like Lee,” said Ken Dew, president of Regions Bank of Cleveland. “The work Lee does makes our community better, and we are happy to partner with them in that work.” The gift from Regions, which has a branch just a few blocks from Lee in the downtown area, reflected the goodwill that has been strengthened between downtown businesses and Lee since the campus has physically connected with it during the campaign.

“This is the final piece of a critically important campus

expansion,” said President Conn at the presentation. “Even while expanding, our focus through this campaign has been on being great neighbors. It means the world to us for great neighbors like Regions of Cleveland and Chattanooga to affirm that focus and help us finish strong.”

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH (2010)

A catalyst for the *Find Us Faithful* campaign was the 2010 purchase of the former First Baptist Church campus. The church had been located at the corner of Church and Central for a century, but lack of available adjacent real estate influenced the congregation’s decision to relocate to a new campus four miles north. In the last 20 years, First Baptist had undertaken two major construction projects: one to enlarge the sanctuary to seat over 1,000, and another to add an enlarged educational wing. The physical stability of the buildings, along with attached parking, outbuildings, and the opportunity to acquire additional parcels, sealed the deal between Lee and First Baptist.

New Hughes Hall



NEW HUGHES HALL (2011)

Renovations and new construction on the former FBC campus were preceded by the first two projects of the *Find Us Faithful* campaign—New Hughes Hall and The Chapel. Both were completed in 2011. The \$5 million New Hughes Hall replaced “old” Hughes Hall, which was razed to make room for green space surrounding the Math and Science Complex. Opening in time for the fall 2011 semester, the 124-bed, three-story residence hall is the anchor for the five Brinsfield Row townhomes located off Magnolia Avenue.



*Communication
Arts Building*



The Chapel

THE CHAPEL (2011)

The Chapel, with its intricate details and sacred appointments, is perhaps the jewel of the list of the *Find Us Faithful* projects. The 300-seat worship space is another example of the deepening relationship between Lee and the Cleveland community. The majestic chapel, built at a cost of \$5 million, sits on a prominent corner of the front campus and is used at least twice a week for weddings and other events.

COMMUNICATION ARTS BUILDING (2014)

When Lee acquired the former FBC property, a large portion of the deal included a one-level former retail space between Central, Church, and Ocoee Streets. One area used to house the downtown location of J. C. Penney. For the first two years, Lee leased back the space that FBC had been using for offices. Then, the Division of Adult Learning occupied the offices until the bulldozer came knocking at the door to make way for the Communications Building. In 2013, the former retail space was razed, along with an adjoining parcel that contained a dozen aging apartments. By the fall of 2014, the Communication Arts Building was ready for students to enjoy its state-of-the-art office and classroom space, Black Box theatre, 4K screening room, and full television production studios.

FIND US FAITHFUL CAMPAIGN



PANGLE HALL (2014)

Simultaneously with the construction of the Communication Arts Building, across Church Street, the former sanctuary of the FBC was being transformed from a worship venue to a multipurpose performance hall. Pews were removed and replaced with 650 theater-style seats and the stage was reconfigured to allow a more intimate engagement experience. The steeple was removed and replaced with a cupola. The space was renamed Pangle Hall and formally dedicated with a special concert in October 2014.

SCHOOL OF NURSING (2016)

While The Chapel might be regarded as the jewel of the campaign, the School of Nursing could be classified as the capstone. With its faculty and staff offices, 140-seat Patricia Carroll Lecture Hall, six simulation labs, tele-health, competency, fully-equipped assessment labs, and classrooms of various sizes, the School of Nursing is also the most expensive

part of the campaign at more than \$15 million. However, that entire amount has been raised, which, as was the case with The Chapel and Communication Arts Building, will not increase Lee's long-term debt.

THE FORUM/DEPT. OF BUSINESS (2017)

Finally, while the fund-raising has been declared finished, the construction continues through 2017. The Forum is a 130-foot tall

bell and clock tower that is nearing completion, and the new home for the Department of Business is ongoing (see articles, pg. 13, pg. 18).

While the attention of capital campaigns tends to gravitate toward new construction, a vital component of *Find Us Faithful* has been the focus on establishing new endowed scholarships. Over the past five years, millions of new dollars have come into the endowment coffers, giving needy students a better chance to claim the Lee experience.

With the above projects and numerous other small campus upgrades, the *Find Us Faithful* campaign has topped out at more than \$50 million. Literally thousands of individuals have given to make it the most successful campaign in Lee history. It starts with committed alumni. Along the way, Lee University has made dozens of new friends who have become partners, both in the community and across the United States. All of it means even brighter futures for generations of Lee students.

"...May those who come behind us find us faithful...May the fire of our devotion light their way..."



HIGGINBOTHAM LEAVES LASTING LEGACY

For the second time in less than a year, the Lee Board of Directors has lost one of its long-time members and staunch supporters of Lee University.

On February 13, 2017, William "Bill" Higginbotham passed away in Oklahoma City. Appointed in 1972, Bill Higginbotham served 42 years as a member of the Lee Board of Directors, the longest of any board member in the history of Lee University, Lee College, or Bible Training School. He served first under President Charles W. Conn, then Ray. H. Hughes, Lamar Vest, and nearly three decades for Paul Conn.

"Bill served on our board for 42 years, longer, by far, than anyone in our history," President Conn wrote to the Lee family in announcing Higginbotham's passing. "He was an extraordinary person, a powerful force in Lee's institutional evolution, and a wonderful personal friend." To commemorate Higginbotham's death, Conn ordered the Student Union bells to toll 42 times following chapel on February 16 and for flags on campus to be flown at half-staff.

The long-time board member gave more than just his time to Lee. It was noted in the winter 2014 issue of Torch that Higginbotham was, "among Lee's most consistent and generous financial supporters. He has made major donations to each of Lee's capital campaigns in the last thirty years and has personally funded one of Lee's largest endowed scholarship funds. Bill and Janie have once again quietly stepped up to be among the most generous givers to the Find Us Faithful campaign." The main building on campus—the one facing Ocoee Street—was renamed the Higginbotham Administration Building in 1983.

Higginbotham's death follows the passing of former board chairman Gary Sharp last summer. Since 2011, other seasoned board members have passed, including Deacon Jones, Ed Hollowell, Raymond Crowley, and Cecil Brown.

Bill Higginbotham began a career in the oil field working his way up through the ranks, starting as a tool dresser and high derrickman with Clark Well Servicing. In the 1950s, he purchased a "junk" rig; and working it himself with his dad, Paul, he began his own business that later became Capitol Well Servicing, Co. He also owned and

operated Oklahoma Tank Service and Trico Drilling, building them into the largest privately owned oilfield-servicing company in Oklahoma at the time. In 1956, he married Betty Walker and together they raised their children in Oklahoma City and Norman, Oklahoma. Following Betty's death in 1988, Bill was fortunate to find love again and married Janie Whitley 29 years ago.

Bill is survived by Janie, and his sons, Larry Steidley, Will Higginbotham, Gary Higginbotham, and daughter Melinda Green. Although not an alumnus, Bill's children attended Lee. He also has six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

President and Mrs. Conn, as well as the Voices of Lee, participated in the funeral service, which took place on February 18, 2017.



IN MEMORIAM

White floral wreaths adorn the front door of the structure that bears the name of the late Bill Higginbotham.

WALKING THE AISLE

Bill at the wedding of his daughter, Melinda, last year.



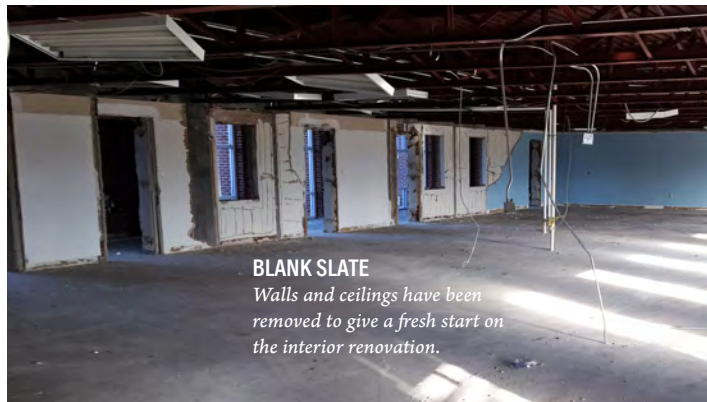


PROGRESS CONTINUES ON SOUTH SIDE

With the east and west sides of the South "Quad" done, work is focused on the north with The Forum's final weeks toward completion, as well as the south end and the interior of the new home for the Department of Business.

The open field between the four structures has now been duly christened as the new women's lacrosse team made their debut on Saturday, February 11, against Erskine College (see article in Sports).

Essentially complete on the outside, the future home for the Department of Business will be the educational wing of the former First Baptist Church. A portion of the wing has been in use for several years, primarily by percussion faculty and students. The wing is connected to Pangle Hall, the former sanctuary, which opened in the fall of 2014. Concentration on the interior renovation between now and the projected opening this fall will be on constructing the space into state of the art classrooms and labs for the Business Department.



BLANK SLATE

Walls and ceilings have been removed to give a fresh start on the interior renovation.

WORDS OF WISDOM

Dr. R. Lamar Vest delivers the commencement address to the winter 2016 class.



VEST SPEAKS AT LEE'S WINTER COMMENCEMENT

Former Lee president, Dr. R. Lamar Vest, returned to deliver the address at Lee University's Winter Commencement ceremony on Saturday, December 17. Vest served as president from 1984–1986. Paul Conn served as his vice president.

Lee's Winter Commencement is one of three graduation ceremonies held each year. The ceremony combines music and decorations of the Christmas season with traditional commencement activities. More than 300 graduates received degrees, and the Lee University Chorale provided music.

Over the last decade, Vest's leadership and influence has been recognized globally through his roles with the American Bible Society (ABS), an organization of which he was president from 2009 to 2013. Previously, he served the Church of God as one of only three men in the history of the denomination to serve twice as general overseer, the church's highest position. He was the fifteenth president of Lee (1984–1986), as well as the tenth president of the Pentecostal Theological Seminary.

Prior to the Saturday commencement, a commissioning ceremony was held Friday, where six student speakers shared brief stories about their time at Lee, and each graduate is presented a personalized Bible. A hooding ceremony for recipients of master's and education specialist's degrees took place earlier Friday, December 16.

\$2 MILLION GRANT RECEIVED FROM U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The U.S. Department of Education recently awarded Lee University a \$2.1 million Title III Strengthening Institutions Program grant with the purpose of better serving students.

"This grant approval means a great deal to us," said Lee President Paul Conn. "We consider student success a priority here, so for the Department of Education to come alongside us and support this proposal is a huge vote of confidence."

The Title III grant will fund the "Joining Forces for Student Success" project, which focuses on developing a new Student Success Center that will unify elements of the Center for Calling and Career, the Office of First-Year Programs, and Academic Services to create a place where students can go for help of any

kind. The center will be operational by the fall semester of 2017.

"Our Title III grant and the Student Success Center will be a game-changer for so many students," said Dr. Eric Moyen, assistant vice president for Academic Affairs. "It will provide the necessary resources for Lee University to expand on its student-centered mission and build on its mission to offer student access by helping encourage student success."

The goals of the project are to inspire student persistence and degree completion by encouraging them to overcome obstacles and help them succeed. The grant will fund multiple new positions for student success coaches and student mentors who will provide the academic, emotional, social, and real-world support students need. The grant will be disbursed over a five-year period.



Director of Academic Services Erin Looney, left, and Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Eric Moyen.

\$2.6 MILLION GRANT COMES FROM NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Lee University has been awarded \$155,000 over five years as part of a \$2.6 million National Science Foundation grant for a collaborative project in mathematics, involving 11 higher education institutions across the country.

The project is called Collaborative Research: A National Consortium for Synergistic Undergraduate Mathematics via Multi-Institutional Interdisciplinary Teaching Partnerships (SUMMIT-P). Lee will work alongside the other schools to renew the lower division undergraduate mathematics curriculum based

on research about the needs of partner disciplines.

"It's very exciting to add another NSF Grant to support curricular innovation, particularly in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and Teacher Education areas," said Dr. Debbie Murray, vice president for Academic Affairs at Lee. "This grant will not only encourage more collaboration among Lee faculty in various departments, but it will also provide rich opportunities for us to work with faculties from other institutions to ensure that our mathematics curriculum main-

tains relevance for students in all areas of study."

Associate professor of mathematics, Dr. Caroline Maher-Boulis, leads the Lee team, which includes Dr. Bryan Poole, assistant professor of psychology; Dr. John Hearn, assistant professor of chemistry; and Dr. Jason Robinson, assistant professor of education.

Lee University's goal is to expand upon two college algebra courses, one for teacher education majors and the other for STEM majors, and lead a student exchange program for mathematics and social sciences majors.



EIGHT FACULTY GRANTED TENURE

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



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DICKERSON**
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MATTHEW FISHER
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of Communication*



ARLIE TAGAYUNA
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RICHARD ALBRIGHT
*Assistant Professor
of Psychology*

SCHOOL OF MUSIC



ANDREW HARNSEBERGER
*Assistant Professor
of Percussion*



RANDY SHEEKS
*Assistant Professor
of Music*



JOHN WYKOFF
*Assistant Professor of Music
Theory and Composition*



BRIAN PETERSON
*Assistant Professor of
Old Testament*

SCHOOL OF RELIGION

CHRISTMANN'S ARTICLE FEATURED

Dr. Benjamin Christmann, assistant professor of biology and health science, co-authored an article that was recently honored as "Featured Article of the Week" by the online journal *PLOS Pathogens*.

The article, titled "Dysregulation of Systemic and Mucosal Humoral Responses to Microbial and Food Antigens as a Factor Contributing to Microbial Translocation and Chronic Inflammation in HIV-1 Infection," demonstrates one of the key mechanisms leading to dysregulated immune responses and bacterial-driven inflammation observed in HIV+ individuals.

PLOS Pathogens is an online journal run by an international editorial board that publishes outstanding original research and commentary that significantly advance the understanding of pathogens and how they interact with their host organisms.

SHEEKS EARNS DOCTORATE

Dr. Randy Sheeks recently earned a doctorate of musical arts in church music with a specialization in worship from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Sheeks' dissertation was titled, "Skills Necessary for Evangelical Church Music Ministry: A Comparative Study of Perceptions by Selected University Programs and Church Leaders."

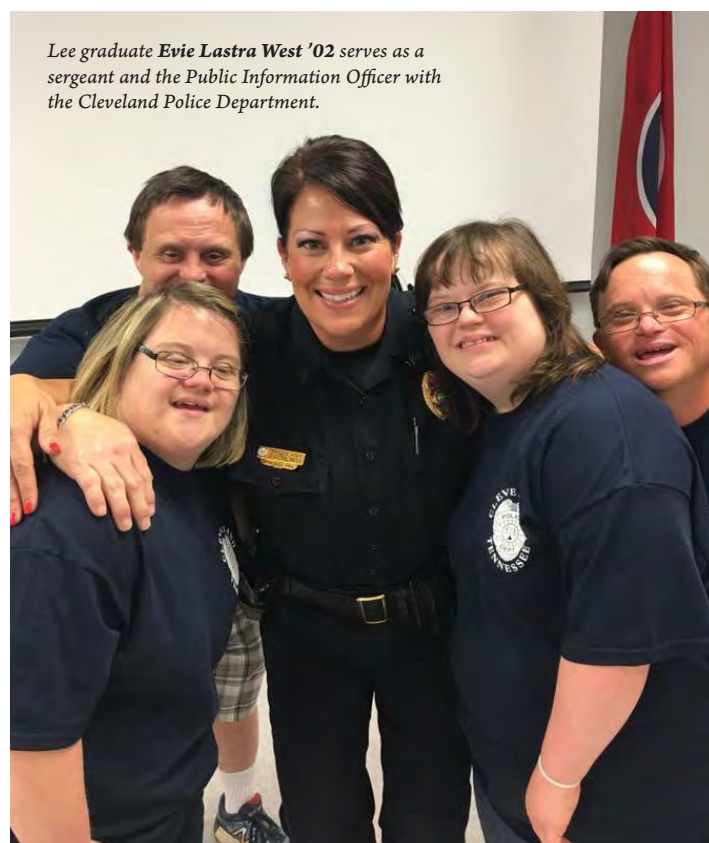
Sheeks joined Lee's faculty in 2010 as an assistant professor of music. Before coming to Lee, he spent 23 years in local church music ministry. He earned his Master's of Music degree from Samford University and his Bachelor of Arts from Lee University.



BY DENNIS PURVIS

Lee University Online will launch Criminal Justice as its newest major beginning May 9, 2017, in cooperation with the Behavioral and Social Sciences Department of the College of Arts and Sciences.

The Division of Adult Learning (DAL) is designing this online offering with working adults in mind, specifically those looking to begin, extend or expand their law enforcement careers or pursue future graduate study. Criminal justice degrees are in high demand across the country and according to a 2010 study of the American Sociological Association that demand is forecast to increase in the coming decades.



Lee graduate Evie Lastra West '02 serves as a sergeant and the Public Information Officer with the Cleveland Police Department.

Criminal justice has been a very successful minor offered to Lee behavioral and social science majors for years. Lee alumni can currently be seen on the job as police officers in Nashville and Cleveland, corrections officers in multiple locations and even the halls of Cambridge University, one of the world's oldest schools of criminology.

With this kind of success, a fully developed major has been "much requested," according to Department Chair Dr. Jeff Sargent.

"We know there are a number of people in local and national criminal justice agencies who will benefit from [this degree]," Sargent said. "Our faith-integrated expertise is uniquely prepared to deliver this program to a new audience."

The program will offer either a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science track with a choice of two emphases: Corrections or Criminology/Juvenile Justice. The academic degree will be an extension of Lee's Sociology program.

For DAL Executive Director Dr. Joshua Black, it's a case of mission meeting mandate: "Criminal Justice programs have been trending in recent years as the need for police and corrections officers grows in our country, so we know there is a demand. However, this is more than just institutional growth; it is about meeting a need in our communities. It is about living out Matthew 25:35-36 by caring for and empowering others."

President Paul Conn echoed this sentiment, "At Lee, we try to deliver academic programs that prepare our students for lives of service. Criminal Justice is an important program that has not been heretofore represented academically here, and we are pleased to offer it."

Local partnerships have already been developed with the Cleveland (TN) Police Department and the Bradley County (TN) Sheriff's Office to offer a local, faith-based alternative for many officers looking to complete their undergraduate degree. The program is designed for both the brand new student and the transfer who may be bringing with him/her a completed Associate's degree.

The 120-hour degree consists of the school's General Education Core (36 hours); Religion Core (15 hours); Specialty Area with selected emphasis (51 hours); and 18 hours of Electives selected by the student.

"This is an exciting time for Lee University," Black said. "We can reach out to the world in a very different way through our Criminal Justice degree."

With the current state of policing in the U.S., Conn believes a criminal justice education with a Christian worldview is of paramount importance: "The blending of justice and mercy has been a goal of the church for 2,000 years. Its importance has never been more crucial than now."

For more information, contact Dennis Purvis, Director of Enrollment Services for the DAL at 423-614-8370 or dal@leeuniversity.edu.



CROSSOVER MINISTRY BUILDS BRIDGES WITH LEE NEIGHBORS

BY WILLIAM LAMB

In 2006, Lee students, Rochelle Mayberry, Aaron Skaggs, and a few classmates, started delivering food to neighbors in need who live close to the Lee campus. The number of volunteers increased each week, and in 11 years, the few now accounts for hundreds of Lee students committed to delivering boxes of food to neighbors in need. Food was important, but building relationships with these neighbors was the mission of Crossover—a student-led care ministry.

Oscar Palin (codirector of Crossover) shared with me recently the impact Crossover has on developing good neighbors in tough

communities. He tells of a time he and his buddy Josh assumed the responsibility of visitation at a local apartment complex:

We were given a few names of people on the route and trusted that relationships would develop from our faithful commitment. On our routine visits, we knocked on the door of a familiar apartment, and when we asked the resident his name, the man said, “Who’s asking?” We explained why we were there and that we had food and time to visit. His demeanor changed from being on guard to welcoming us in. After a few visits of sharing food and conversation, our new friend (we call him Jim

Bob, or JB), gave us a wooden guitar he made. The next visit it was a birdhouse he crafted. We gained a friend because we were consistent. One day we were short of food, and JB’s neighbor lacked necessary resources. Our friend JB went back into his own apartment and came out with cans of food to share with his neighbor. It was then that I saw God moving on JB and realized that this “service stuff” really does work.

The Leonard Center partners with various organizations on the Lee University campus to give students the opportunity to engage in high-impact learning experiences, while promoting the mission of community organizations. It is directed by Dr. William Lamb.

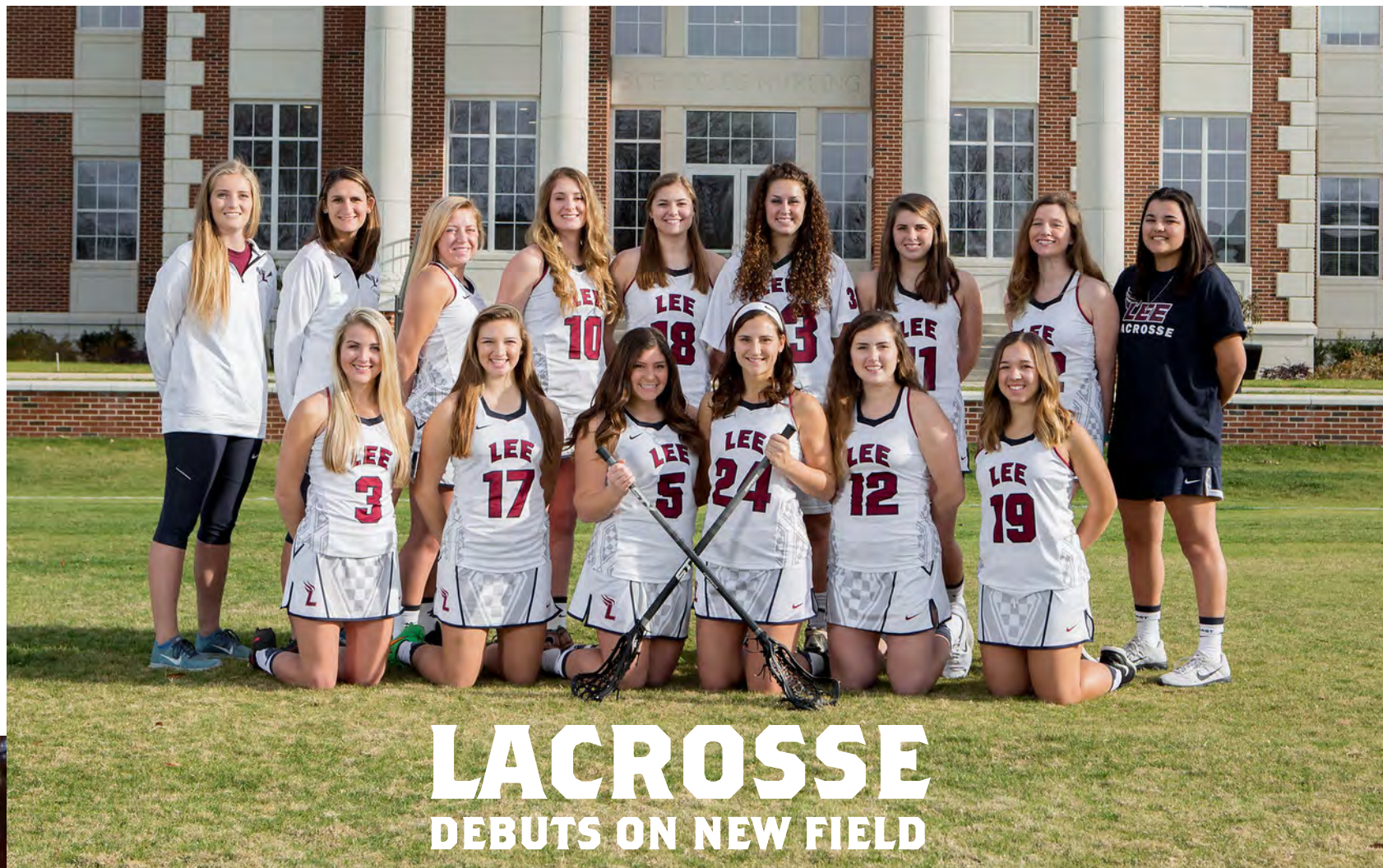


Lee students gathering for prayer as they prepare to serve neighbors in need, through Crossover.



LEE'S FIRST LACROSSE TEAM

The Lady Flames lacrosse team poses for their official team photo on the South Quad Field.



A historic game took place on Saturday, February 11, as the new Lee University women's lacrosse team played their inaugural match. The game was played on the South Quad Field—the first intercollegiate match on the site. The opponent was Erskine College (S.C.), a member of the Conference Carolinas. The Lady Flames put up a tough fight, but lost the game, 9-17.

The celebration of the new team and new field began with a cookout for the student body on a temporarily closed Church Street; and 500 Lee, lacrosse-branded T-shirts were handed out on the historic occasion.

Lacrosse was the first new sport to debut at Lee since baseball was reintroduced back in 1996. Lee Athletic Director Larry Carpenter shared his feelings about the first lacrosse contest saying, "We are excited to begin this new era in Lee athletics. Once known as a northern sport, lacrosse is becoming popular in the South, and we want it to be something that the Cleveland community embraces. I have confidence that Coach (Addie) Wadley will quickly have our team playing an exciting style of lacrosse and competing at a high level."

With a background of coaching club lacrosse in California and

Oregon, Coach Wadley says she is excited about starting the new program.

"The girls have worked incredibly hard and have all improved so much since we began in August," proclaimed the young leader. "I am also excited to introduce lacrosse to the Lee family. We have felt tremendous support up to this point."

After falling to Erskine, the Lady Flames dropped a contest at the University of Indianapolis before hosting a strong Young Harris team and then the University of Montevallo (Ala.) to close out the February schedule.

TRACK TEAMS SET MULTIPLE SCHOOL RECORDS

As February gave way to March, the Lee University Track and Field teams began their transition from the indoor season to outdoor. The Flames and Lady Flames participated in four indoor games, and combined, they set 11 Lee records, one event record, and met 12 NCAA Division II provisional qualifying standards for the indoor championships.

Josiah Brooks and Christian Noble were each part of three new Lee records. Brooks set the 60-meter and 200-meter records at the Samford Open. He set the long jump record of 6.85 meters at the UCS Invitational. Noble recorded times of 14:30.63 and 4:13.89 in the 5,000-meter and the mile, respectively. The freshman joined Brandon Raleigh, Justin Brooks, and Harold Smith to set the Lee record of 9:58.65 in the distance medley relay at the UCS Invitational. Seth Eagleson broke the 5,000-meter record earlier in the season with a time of 14:49.52 during the Camel City Invitational. Derek Flatford was the final Flame to set a new record. He set a new standard of 8.63 in the 60-meter hurdles at the UCS Invitational.

Audrey Smith recorded two individual records and added another as part of the distance medley relay. The junior posted a time of 10:21.78 in the 3,000-meter at Camel City and 18:02.14 in the 5,000-meter at the Samford Open. Her time was also a meet record.

Smith joined Jessica Childers, Adrian Martin, and Cayce Bryan to stop the clock at 12:09.48 in the distance medley relay at the UCS Invitational. Childers, Martin, and Bryan were also part of the Lady Flames' new record in the 4x400 meter relay. Jordan Allison teamed with them for a time of 3:59.65.

Lee has eight outdoor meets on the schedule, including the Gulf South Conference Championship. The Flames will look to defend their GSC Championship, while the Lady Flames seek to improve upon last year's second-place finish.

UPDATE: MARCH 12, 2017

BIRMINGHAM, ALA. – Justin Brooks capped the Lee University Track and Field program's first trip to the NCAA D2 Indoor Track and Field Championships with a fifth-place finish in the 400-meter dash. Brooks crossed the finish line at 47.57, his personal best. The sophomore qualified for the March 11 final by finishing seventh in the first round with a mark of 47.84 two days earlier.



FAST FEET

Justin Brooks displays his skills during an indoor track event. He was part of three new school records.

TENNIS HOSTS D1 THE CITADEL

The Flames opened the 2017 tennis season against its NCAA Division I opponent The Citadel (Charleston, S.C.) on February 24. It marked the first time a Lee team had hosted a D1 team on the DeVos Tennis Center courts.

"We were excited to open with The Citadel," said Lee coach, Patric Hynes. "The opportunity to host a D1 program is something that doesn't happen very often, so we appreciate the chance to play a good team on our courts."

After The Citadel visited, the Flames opened Gulf South Conference play with West Florida, ranked No. 9 in NCAA D2. The Argos visited DeVos Center on March 3. Other GSC powers, No. 5 Valdosta State, and ranked North Alabama remain on the schedule.

"We have several top programs coming to us this year, so it's a great opportunity for our men," noted Hynes. "Our men are hoping to break into the top 50 (D2) teams

and improve on our Gulf South finish from last year."

The Lady Flames opened the 2017 season on the road at Carrollton, Ga., facing the University of West Georgia. They joined the Flames in hosting the University of West Florida.

"Our goal for the women is to continue our improvement from the last couple of years and earn respect from every team in the GSC with our fight," explained Hynes.

LADY FLAMES ADVANCE TO SOUTH REGION NATIONALS

The Lee women's basketball team entered uncharted waters when it traveled to St. Petersburg, Fla. the second weekend of March to face top-seeded Eckerd College in the opening round of the NCAA D2 South Region National Tournament.

Losing to Eckerd in that first round, the Lady Flames were one of 64 teams (24 conference champions and 40 at-large team) selected for the annual event. It marked the first time-ever a Lee basketball team has advanced past conference play in NCAA D2.

The South Region field was made up of Lee, Valdosta State and West Florida from the Gulf South Conference while Eckerd (26-4) was joined by Rollins, Florida Southern and Nova Southeastern from the Sunshine State Conference. Benedict College (SIAC) rounded out the tournament.

Lee (20-10) won at least 20 games each of the 13 years since coach Marty Rowe took over the program in 2004. In fact his Lady

Flame teams have never won less than 20 games. With no seniors on the squad and at least two freshmen in the starting line-up, the Lady Flames posted two key wins over rival Union University and finished the regular season with a 14-8 record in GSC play. Six of the eight conference defeats went right down to the wire and were decided by five points or less.

Junior Erin Walsh paced the Lady Flames in scoring (14 points per game) and was named to the All-GSC team. Junior teammate Carrie Cheeks led the team with 8.1 rebounds per contest. A pair of freshmen followed their junior teammates. Abby Bertram was named GSC Freshman of the Week five times, while Lindsey Roddy poured in nine points and grabbed almost four rebounds per start.

Late in the season junior Shelby Brown began to step up in key games, scoring 20 points in back-to-back conference games and being named to the Gulf South Conference All-Tournament Team.



POSTERIZED

Shelby Brown displays scoring form in a Gulf South Conference battle with Valdosta State

BASEBALL FLAMES ON FIRE

Paced by steady starting and relief pitching, plus production from the hitters, the Lee baseball team is off to a 16-8 start, including taking two of three from Gulf South Conference opponent Alabama Huntsville.

The Flames opened the 2017 campaign by taking two of three contests from a Catawba College (N.C.) team that was ranked in the preseason NCAA DII polls. Coach Mark Brew then took his club south for a single game with Albany State and three contests with St. Leo, Fla. Lee returned with four straight wins and pushed its winning streak eight straight with a victory over Lincoln Memorial, followed by a

pair of decisions over Huntsville before dropping the final game of the three-game series.

The early season hitting attack has been paced by junior Jordan Howard. Senior centerfielder, Jeremy Walton, has blasted three

Jordan Howard has not only been outstanding at shortstop, but he's also swinging a hot bat.



SOFTBALL BATTING .500

Coach Emily Russell said her 2017 softball team would be counting on a group of promising freshmen. At least four of the newcomers have teamed with sophomores, juniors, and one senior to help the Lady Flames get off to a 17-7 start.

The early wins include three over the University of Montevallo, two over Florida teams—Lynn and Flagler—plus a pair over local rival Tennessee Wesleyan, one from the University of Mobile, and an impressive decision over an Alabama Huntsville team that was ranked 21st in preseason NCAA D2 polls.

Abby McKinney is leading the team with a .476 batting average. Junior Leigh Beatenbough has sparked the Lady Flames by batting .412. Senior Courtney Crawford has produced with a team-leading 23 hits and a .411 batting average. Junior Annabeth Pruett is batting .344, while Sophomore Stevie Baird stole the show in the win over Huntsville, stepping to the plate and stroking a home run. She is hitting .356.



Stevie Baird is greeted by Coach Russell after stroking a home run against Alabama Huntsville.

BUBBA SMITH WRAPS FIRST YEAR AT LEE HELM

After finishing the season with a somewhat deceiving 11-17 overall mark and 7-16 against rugged Gulf South Conference competition, the Lee men's basketball team and first-year coach Bubba Smith are optimistic as they look towards 2017-18.

Against GSC opponents, the Flames only lost one encounter by more than 12 points and most defeats were within the four-eight range. The Flames posted non-conference wins over Miles College, Palm Beach Atlantic, Fisk University, Auburn



Rico Overall averaged in double-figure scoring and was the team's assist leader.

Montgomery and North Georgia. In league play, they recorded victories over Shorter, West Florida, Union, Christian Brothers and West Alabama. All but one of those decisions came against teams who moved onto post-season play.

"I was really proud of how our team continued to compete throughout the season and even to the end today," commented Coach Smith. "This team will be instrumental in laying the foundation of our program and culture moving forward. I will be forever grateful

to our group of seniors and their willingness to change, be coachable, and set a higher standard for themselves and our program."

The seniors are Keevin Tyus, Jervon Johnson, Rico Overall, Cody Farley and Mike Kobani. Senior Bryce Copeland, who was injured, will receive a red-shirt year and return next season.

The Lee coaching staff has already been on the recruiting trail and has landed a couple of commitments that will be announced at a later date.

GOLF TEAMS SET FOR STRONG RUN

The Lee men's golf team is eager for the opportunity to advance from the difficult NCAA Division II South/Southeast Region as it enters the spring season.

"One of the things we always try to do here is make sure we are getting better every day—just moving closer to where we want to be at the end of the season," said Head Coach John Maupin. "I think a good schedule can go a long way in helping a team reach that point." Maupin is in the midst

of his ninth season as head coach of the men and women's programs. Both teams teed-off in the Las Vegas Desert Classic on March 5 to begin 2017. After joining the men for the tournament in Las Vegas, the Lady Flames will get ready for conference tournament play by taking part in the Skyhawk Invitational, Tennessee Tech Invitational, and the University of West Florida Invitational. Gulf South Conference Tournament play begins on April 16.



Lee senior Cailey Ginto fires a shot from out of the sand.

THE 2016

ANNUAL ALUMNI FUND

LIST

The word “manager” is a little out of fashion these days, especially compared to trendier words like “leader” or “trailblazer.” You don’t see a lot of motivational posters praising the virtue of management. Too bad, because at Lee we believe that good management is the difference between a neat idea and a reality that changes lives.

For example, if you, our alumni and friends, hadn’t managed your personal resources well, we could not have successfully finished the Find Us Faithful campaign in 2016. Well wishes are always welcomed, but they can’t pay for brick. So please accept our sincere and deepest gratitude for managing your resources so that you could give generously.

In 2017 our continued pledge at Lee University is that we will manage well what has been entrusted to us. We will prudently use your gifts to create a reality that changes lives. That’s not very fancy or glamorous. It is, however, beautiful. It’s the Lee way.

Thank you for your generous support in 2016.

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Jeffrey and Allison Sneed[†]
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Sue Snyder[†]
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Randy and Bethany Stephens[†]
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Joanna Tseng[†]
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Betty Turner[†]
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Duane Vance[†]
Ian and Julie Vance[†]
Daniel and Mary Vanoy[†]
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Mandi Wyndham[†]
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The Praise and Worship band, led by Dr. Brad Moffett, performs on the Conn Center stage during Spring Convocation 2017.



WHEN IN ROMAINE
Ryan and Anna
on the farm



Figuring IT OUT EARLY

ANNA LUZADER CARMICHAEL '12 LEADS ONE HEART AFRICA.

*M*ost students enter college with an "idea" of what they might want to do.

The lucky ones are laser-focused and have declared a major from day one. Others don't have a clue.

By her own admission, Anna Luzader fits into that third category.

"When it came to choosing a college, Lee was a natural fit," Anna said. "In August of 2008, I moved into Cross Hall thinking that life was going to be smooth sailing for the next four years. So, no one was more surprised than I was that by the second

semester of my sophomore year, I had yet to declare a major. I was in a self-induced slump brought on by my lack of self-discipline. I was miserable."

During that semester, she received a Facebook message from a childhood friend who had been doing a first-year missionary training program in South Africa and Swaziland.

"We hadn't talked in two years," Anna recalled, "so I was taken aback by his message that simply read, 'Hey! When are you coming here?' (Here as in...Africa.) It had always been a dream of mine to go." That conversation led to Anna's

signing up for a trip to Kenya in the fall of 2010 where she spent three months in Kijabe, Kenya, with a team of ten other college students.

"As I reflect on those three months, I'm at a loss for words," Anna said. "God used that time to absolutely wreck and simultaneously restore me. He reminded me of who I am: a daughter of the King, bought with a price, created to do the good works that He had already prepared. I started doing something I hadn't done in a long time—pray that He would guide and use me."

During those months in Kenya, Anna had life-changing encounters with people and situations, which taught her that, like her, people in Africa dreamed of the freedom to learn and the ability to work a job of which they were proud. It became her dream, too.

When she returned home, the first thing she did was reenroll at Lee and declare a major—human development with a business emphasis.

"For the first time in my life, I realized what a gift it was to be able

to pursue a degree at a school that seeks to honor God and is full of professors who teach within that framework," she said. "Being able to grow and be taught by people who love the Lord, as well as being excellent in their field, is a huge blessing. And I finally discovered joy in learning."

Anna's childhood friend was Ryan Carmichael. Their journey, from being students growing up together, to eventually having the same dreams for Africa, brought them to the marriage altar in 2012, the same year Anna received her degree from Lee.

In 2011, Anna and Ryan began their dream to build a preschool by working with a friend from Swaziland. It wasn't long until property had been given to build the preschool and a building started. Admittedly, as two, 21-year-old "kids," Anna started feeling like they might be in over their heads. In the Mozambique village of Licilo, there were no preschools and only two primary schools to serve the entire population of 6,000. Most of the men left to work the mineral mines of South Africa and the women in the local fields. When the men returned, they often brought diseases with them. Access to clean water was scarce and not available to everyone.

"When we returned to America, we immediately started telling others about Licilo and asking for help—and people started donating!" Anna stated. The response prompted the 2012 founding of One Heart Africa with the mission to educate, equip, and empower rural areas of southern Africa.

In 2013, Sharing Hope Preschool opened its doors with



LOTS OF LETTUCE WRAPS

Some of the students and their teacher, Teresa, at Nyambo Neighborhood Care Point, receiving produce from the farm.

one classroom, 18 students, and two teachers. That small school has now grown into three classrooms, seven staff, and 100 students that are fed daily, loved by their teachers, taught about Jesus, given a quality education, and provided access to safe water through the school's fresh water well.



One Heart Africa also provides employment, healthy food, and educational opportunities through a small gardening plot, which allowed incorporation of a better variety of food into the students' diets, as well as teaching basic agricultural principles.

"As One Heart Africa grew, we knew we needed a more sustainable approach," Anna stated. "In 2013, we were offered a large, 22-acre plot of land at the base of the Lubombo Mountains near Siteki, Swaziland. It didn't take long for us to say, 'yes!'"

Today, the Carmichaels live in Swaziland and manage this plot of land, which has now turned into Lubombo Valley Farms. The farm has many purposes, including the provision of farm fresh, nutrient-dense food to their neighbors affected by HIV, a number estimated to be greater than 30 percent of the population in Swaziland. The farm also provides food for area care points, which serve orphaned and vulnerable children in the community.

The second purpose of the farm is demonstrating and teaching sustainable farming techniques.

"Swaziland has experienced massive drought in recent years,

so we have implemented a farming technique called aquaponics—a method using fish to fertilize water, which gravity feeds into waterbeds with plants floating on top. The plants clean the water, and it is then pumped back into the fish tank. Because the same water is being recycled, this method of farming uses 90 percent less water than traditional farming and is also an organic and compact growing method."

The farm creates a revenue stream and employment opportunities for people in the community where more than half the adults are unemployed. It provides steady, ethical employment for five people and also provides an in-country revenue stream for the Carmichaels' living expenses.

Lastly, the farm provides a safe place for discipleship.

"When you spend seven hours a day with someone, natural discipleship happens," Anna stated. "We hold weekly Bible studies for our farmers where we study what the Word says, sing, and pray for each other. In our area of Swaziland, the main religion is Zionism, a mix between witchcraft or ancestral worship and Christianity. Our hope and dream for the farm is that it will raise up strong parents who are rooted in their faith and leave a strong legacy for their families. We believe that the power of education can mold young minds and that equipping communities with nutritional food and agricultural

training can lead to healthy families. Empowering people with the gospel and with jobs that promote dignity and pride can transform generations to come."

"It's fun to look back and see what a big role Lee played in the early stages of One Heart Africa," Anna concluded. "Since I was still a student while founding the organization, I was able to use my school projects in practical ways. For example, I did a project on malaria for my Child Health and Wellness class. Now, we are building a clinic in Mozambique to treat our students who have malaria and other preventable and treatable diseases. I did a business plan for a socially conscious café in my Intro to Business class, and we are working toward making that a reality in Swaziland. I did an ethnography of the Swazi people in my Cultural Anthropology class, and now I live among them."

"It is truly amazing to see how God works all things together for His glory and for our good. So now, here I sit, in a small farmhouse powered by the sun in a small community in Swaziland, looking at fields of corn, sunflowers, green peppers, rows of banana trees, and five aquaponic systems full of fish, lettuce, celery, and basil. As a sophomore in college, I couldn't have dreamed that these were the plans He had for me. He is able to do immeasurably more than we could ever ask or imagine. Trust Him. It's worth it."

SHARING HOPE
The staff and volunteers at
Sharing Hope Preschool.





Do you have a recent life event you'd love to share with your fellow Lee alumni?

CHECK THE NEXT PAGE TO SEE HOW ►

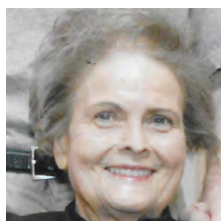
JOYCE ANN MARTIN '57 died on February 1, 2017, in New Paris, Ohio. She was a member of Covenant of Peace Church in Eaton, Ohio, and was a devoted Christian, gospel singer, wife, grandmother, caretaker, mentor, successful businesswoman, and entrepreneur who touched lives everywhere. Survivors include her daughter, Carol Martin, four grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

WILLIAM T. "BILL" GEORGE '62

died on January 31, 2017, following a lengthy illness. Bill was a former Lee professor, where he earned the coveted Excellence in Teaching Award. He was a respected mentor to hundreds, particularly the Men of Upsilon Xi. He was instrumental in the vision for the construction of the Clock Tower that exists on the Lee campus. In addition to his service at Lee, Bill served as a pastor, missionary, Bible School superintendent, and editor in chief for Church of God publications. He leaves behind his wife, Nelda, and their two grown sons.



George



Walk

JUDY ANN WALK '71, passed away on February 9, 2017, at her family residence in Cleveland, Tenn. Judy graduated from Lee with top honors and received her master's degree in Library Science from Trevecca University. Judy had over 30 years of service as a teacher in Georgia, Alabama, Florida, and Tennessee. She also served as a librarian. She is survived by her husband, Ron, her daughter, Suzanne Mays, and her two grandchildren.

from all 50 states. The Music Educator Award was established to recognize current educators (kindergarten through college, public, and private schools) who have made a significant and lasting contribution to the field of music education and who demonstrate a commitment to the broader cause of maintaining music education in schools. Nonwinning finalists received a \$1,000 honorarium, and the schools of all 10 finalists will receive matching grants.

David is a music teacher at Monte Vista Christian School in Watsonville, Calif. (photo)



Brummett

DAVID DEHNER '86 was one of ten finalists for the 2017 Music Educator Award™ presented by The Recording Academy® and the GRAMMY Foundation®. A total of ten music teachers from ten cities across seven states were announced as finalists for the award, which was presented on national television during the Grammy Awards on February 19. Initial nominations were submitted

PETE BRUMMETT '98 was recently named vice president and Financial Center manager for the Wildwood Branch of First Tennessee Bank in Cleveland, Tennessee. His new post comes after ten years with Regions Bank, and seven years with Wells Fargo.



WANT TO BE IN THE NEXT ISSUE?

Who's Where remains a popular section of *Torch*, but we need an infusion of updates! Submitting an update is easier than ever, so let us know how you're doing and you could see yourself in the next issue of *Torch*!

4 WAYS TO SUBMIT AN UPDATE:

We want to hear about all the ways that our alumni are winning! Send us your life updates one of four ways. If you have a picture to go with your update, be sure to include it!



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LAURA SHERWOOD '12 was granted one of 14 fellowship slots in the 2016 Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics Medical program (FASPE). The fellowship involved visiting sites significant to the Holocaust and discussing the medical ethics involved in those events, including relating those concerns to the medical ethics culture that faces today's physicians. Laura said, "My work there culminated in a paper which discussed the historical influences on American culture regarding euthanasia."

She went on to say, "My decision to choose medicine was a personal one," she said. "It is my intention to utilize my medical skills in developing countries at the completion of my residency training. I believe in providing complete care to patients, which addresses body, soul, and spirit."

JEREMY CARUTHERS '12 recently completed a recording project, "Rising," the debut EP from Rally Worship, a youth and young adult worship team at the Montclair Tabernacle Church of God in Dumfries, Va. where Jeremy serves as youth pastor. Jeremy says, "The electronic style, with hints of '80s influence, provides a thrilling and fresh backdrop for lyrics that focus on God's love and faithfulness." Jeremy and his wife, Becca, are new parents to Maelynn, born in January. The EP is available wherever music is streamed or bought online.



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