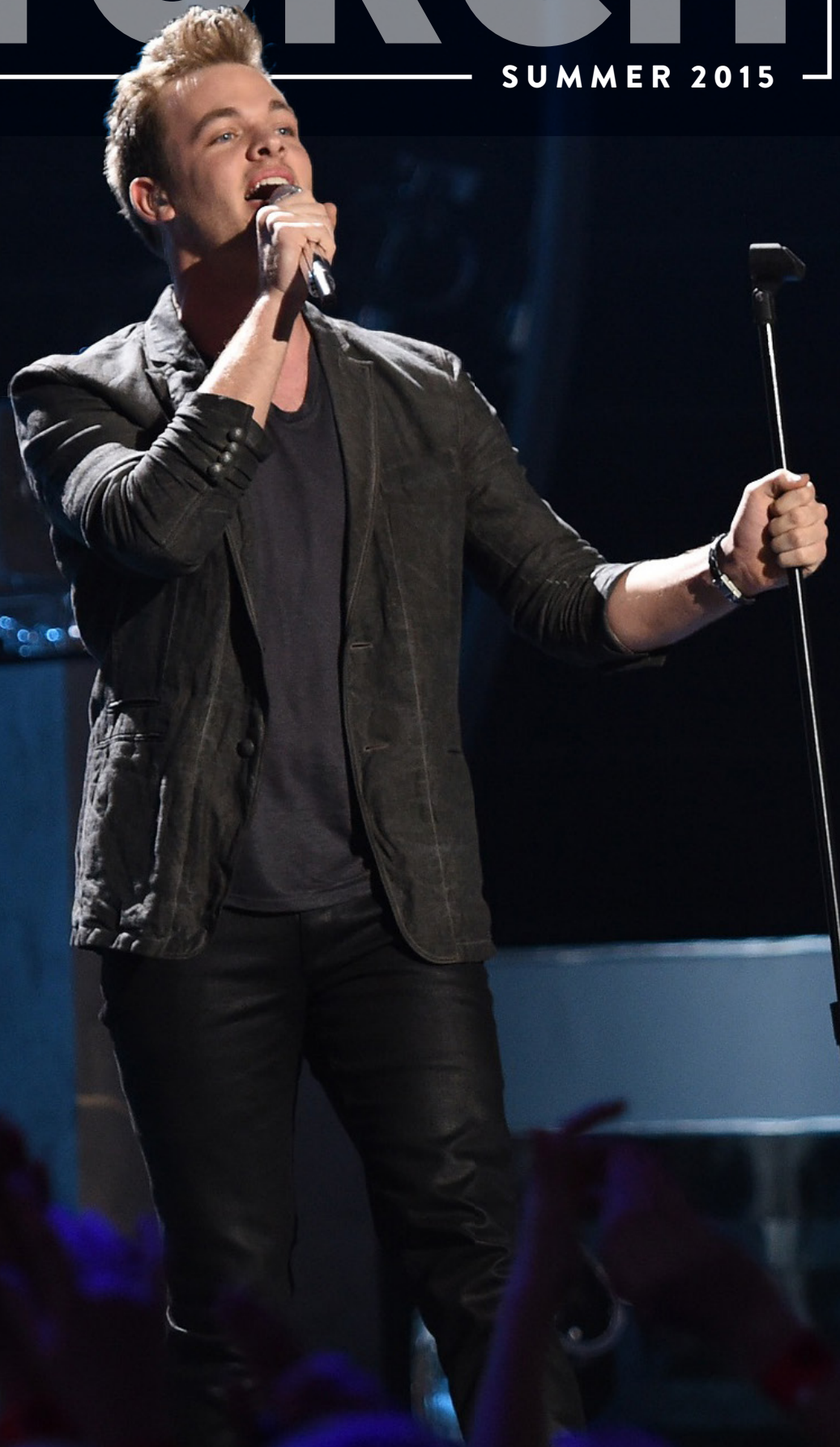


THE MAGAZINE OF LEE UNIVERSITY

# TORCH

SUMMER 2015





LEE UNIVERSITY

# TORCH

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**ON THE COVER** Clark Beckham '14 performs live before millions on the stage of American Idol

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# THIS ISSUE:

## 4 A Lee University American Idol

Graduating just last year, Clark Beckham '14 didn't take long to bring national fame and prestige to his alma mater. His four month run in the spotlight of the talent search American Idol earned him a second place finish and a bright future that is assured.

by Cameron Fisher

## 8 Class of 2015 Launches

For the first time, Commencement Weekend was staged on the lawn of the Math and Science Complex where thousands gathered for the two-day graduation ceremonies. Read about it from the perspective of a graduating senior taking it all in.

By Katelyn Tresh

## 22 Physical Plant Moves to a New Home

Always an integral part of the operations, Physical Plant has become even more a part of the well-oiled machine of Lee University. Read an overview of how the three crews keep the university going 24/7 and how new digs will streamline the operations even more.

By Brianna Pugh

## 26 Global Perspectives: Alaska

Torch continues the ongoing series with a focus for the first time on a stateside excursion, albeit disconnected from the Lower 48. Alaska is a land unto itself as students participating this year encountered unique and rewarding cultures.

By Laura Anderson

## 28 Lady Flames Win Nationals

Before becoming eligible for post-season play in the NCAA Div. II next year, the Lady Flames basketball team joined both soccer teams going out in style by winning the national championship in the National Christian College Athletic Association.

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## OPENING THOUGHTS

from  
President Paul Conn

## Life After Lee

One of the best measures of a good university is to ask "what happens to students after they graduate?"

When I talk with prospective students and their parents, I often tell them: We are really not as concerned about how freshmen look when they come in, as how seniors look when they go out. It's the quality of our graduates that tells us we are doing a good job. We know what happens to students at Lee, but it's really more important what happens to the after Lee.

In the last couple of months, we have heard news from Lee alums that gives us a glimpse of how good Life after Lee can be – in so many different areas – for so many many different alumni. Here are four examples:

A major-league pitcher: When the Atlanta Braves announced their roster on opening day this April, one of the pitchers making the team is a former Lee Flame. His name is Brandon Cuniff, a right-handed pitcher from California who played at Lee in 2009. He is the first Lee pitcher to wear a major-league uniform, and the 2015 season is an exciting one for him. Brandon has already appeared in 23 games for the Braves, as of June 10.

A pastor celebrating a rare milestone: In April, Pastor Allen Mathura celebrated his 30th anniversary as senior pastor of South Metro Ministries in suburban Atlanta. He and his wife Valerie attended Lee in the late 70's, and have built their congregation from a small group of worshippers into a large, vibrant church which has become one of the best-known congregations in Clayton County.

A music scholar bound for Russia: Knar Abrahamyan, a new graduate of Lee's School of Music (2014) has just been awarded the highly competitive Fulbright Scholarship to study abroad. She will use this prestigious award to study for a year in Moscow, focusing on twentieth century Russian composers. Knar is a wonderful pianist, and will graduate with a masters degree from Indiana University later this summer before going to Russia on the Fulbright grant.

An "American Idol": And of course there is Clark Beckham, also a 2014 grad, who appeared on national television week after week this spring as a finalist on the "American Idol" competition. Clark was a history major at Lee, and plays guitar and piano, as well as singing; he finished the Idol competition as runner-up, and is spending the summer on a 36-city tour with other finalists.

Four alums with four very different stories. For each, there has been a highly successful "life after Lee." There are hundreds – thousands – more who make their Alma Mater proud. Their stories, more than any national ranking or accreditation, lets us know what an exceptional setting Lee provides for students to move toward the futures God has prepared for them.



# Clark Beckham

## TAKES RUNNER-UP on American Idol



## The recent alumnus in TV's legendary talent search gives his alma mater **MAJOR EXPOSURE**

By Cameron Fisher

For the past 14 years, the words “American Idol” have conjured up the American dream for aspiring young talent in search of a break in the music industry. On Wednesday night, May 13, 2015, Clark Beckham '14 came up just short of that ultimate entertainment crown, when millions watching the season finale learned the new American Idol was not Clark, but Nick Fradiani of New Guilford, Conn.

The 2015 season debuted in January with shows that crisscrossed the country in search of 24 contestants to

ultimately appear on the show. Beckham auditioned in Nashville, not far from his hometown of White House, Tennessee. American Idol season XIV climaxed with the announcement of the winner on the FOX television network. Among a host of entertainment giants, Beckham sang a duet of “Takin’ It to the Street” with legendary pop star Michael McDonald as part of the two-hour, season-ending wrap-up. In the last five minutes of the show, Idol emcee Ryan Seacrest announced the nationwide vote results.

Music has been part of Beckham's life since childhood. Clark is the son of Virgil and Terri Beckham. Virgil used to play guitar for Bill Medley from the Righteous Brothers.

“We came here (to Tennessee) in 1985 to open for Alabama,” Virgil told the Nashville *Tennessean* newspaper. “After that tour was over, (we) decided to stay. So Clark grew up with a lot of R&B influence because that's what I am—an R&B singer.”

“Clark has learned so much during his time on American Idol, and he's not the only one,” Clark's mother Terri said. “I only thought I knew who my son was. People ask me if I am surprised that he's in the Top (2); I am not. What has taken my breath away, however, is the dignity, sense of self, musicality, and determination Clark has exhibited throughout this entire process.”

While a student at Lee, Beckham was a history major and an active member of the Campus Choir, directed by Jimmy Phillips. Throughout the season, Beckham lauded his experience at Lee University and with Campus Choir as the primary foundation of his performances on the show.

One of Clark's favorite professors at Lee, Dr. Bob Barnett, said, “It may seem a bit odd that Clark was a history major who is a fine musician, but if you talk to him, I think he will tell you that history taught him a great deal that he has incorporated as a musician... he has a deeper understanding of the human spirit,



Clark and his mother, Terri Beckham

Clark as a child with his parents, Virgil and Terri.



Clark poses with friends at his graduation from Lee last year.



considers what it is to be human in a deeper way, and as a major, learned to be disciplined and work hard. I would describe Clark as far more than a talented

musician. When I think of him, I see Clark as a humble man of faith and character who is following his dreams. To me, that is about the highest compliment I could pay anyone.”

Beckham told President Paul Conn: “Lee has formed me into being the man I am today. My Lee experience is absolutely, without question, the primary factor in making me the musician, Christian, and





The Lee Campus Choir surprised Clark at his hometown visit in White House, Tennessee.

man that American Idol has seen, tested, and has wanted on their show.”

“My background at Lee has been everything I needed for this,” Clark said. “Honestly, it made the amount of singing we do here a breeze. ... What I’ve done at Lee before here with Campus Choir and school taught me to work really hard when I’m really, really tired. My Lee experience prepared me for this.”

As part of the season finale Wednesday night, Beckham and Fradiani were asked to invite their mentors as guests. Invitations were presented when the Top Four contestants traveled to their hometowns to give a concert performance. The hometown shows aired on May 6 and coverage of Beckham’s concert at White House, a small town just north of Nashville, showed an



Clark on stage with American Idol emcee, Ryan Seacrest.

To see Clark’s performances, and behind-the-scenes videos of his experience on American Idol, go to [www.americanidol.com/contestant/clark-beckham/](http://www.americanidol.com/contestant/clark-beckham/)

appearance of the Campus Choir as a surprise to Beckham.

During the May 13 finale, Beckham’s mentor was Campus Choir Director Phillips, who appeared on the show during a segment where the final two contestants publicly thanked their mentors for their leadership. As a surprise, Idol sponsor, Ford Motor Company, presented both the finalists and mentors with keys to a new Ford Focus.

The season ending of the series consisted of two consecutive nights where on the first night, Tuesday, Beckham and Fradiani competed head-to-head one last time before celebrity judges Keith Urban, Jennifer Lopez, and Harry Connick Jr. While the judges offered their critiques of the finalists’ performances, the ultimate decision would come from the nationwide voting.

The Wednesday finale capped a five-month run of Idol where the 24 original contestants were one-by-one voted off the show based on the results of millions of votes cast via online, phone, and text. Beckham gained weekly, nationwide exposure to millions as he sang and played his way to the Top Two finish.

Beckham’s Christian character and integrity showed through on several occasions during the season. He frequently thanked God for the opportunity, both live on the show and through social media. When asked during a live interview on the Wednesday finale of his feelings about what was in store, he stated, “whatever happens it’s in the Lord’s hands.” Following the announcement of the winner, Beckham tweeted, “I don’t know what the future holds, but I know who holds the future.”

Lee President Paul Conn tweeted, “I am so proud of



Clark Beckham! In all the pressure, he stayed true to himself and his values. Great talent; great character.”

Although Beckham barely missed the top prize, his experience with Idol is far from over. This summer the Top Five will perform in 27 concerts across the country as part of the American Idol Tour.

“God is music; God made music; God put music in me,” Beckham said in an interview with the Nashville Tennessean. “He’s driven me here, and in many ways, protected me from certain things, certain doors, that I wanted to go through that He closed. He so clearly opened this door, so I just went through. It’s been really great, and I’m just trusting Him, going where He leads.”

Clark is the fourth Lee student to make it to the Hollywood rounds or further on American Idol. The others are Phil Stacey, who placed sixth in season six; and Chase Guyton, and Jermaine Purifory, who advanced into the Hollywood rounds.





# 2015 GRADUATION

## in the *Eye of the Beholder*

**Editor's Note:** For the first time since it was completed in 2011, the inner lawn of the Science and Math Complex was used as the staging ground for Commencement. The events of the weekend utilized the porch of the complex as the main stage and the expansive lawn as area large enough to accommodate all graduates, faculty, family and friends of graduates. Inclement weather had prohibited use of the beautiful venue the last several years. The photos chosen for this spread seek to highlight the new location's grandeur.



By Katelyn Tresh '15

Graduating college evokes a feeling that is difficult to explain. So much is behind you— many things learned, accomplished, and cherished. For however many years it takes, you are on your own, probably for the first time and are given the opportunity to pursue higher education in whatever field appeals to you. The years go by quickly, and all of a sudden, graduation has arrived and you are sitting on the Science and Math Complex (SMC) lawn surrounded by the people who have influenced you the most.

I have been waiting for this weekend for all my four years at Lee. The two weeks leading up to my momentous walk across the stage seemed to last forever. I was ready to move on and start my new stage of life in Chicago. I realized (probably a little late) that those last two weeks at Lee were very precious. I took a step back and saw how important Lee and its people have been in my life, and how necessary it was for me to fully experience my final time here. The upcoming services were exactly the conclusion that I needed so that I could leave Cleveland, Tennessee, feeling blessed out of my mind!

On Friday night, we lined up to march into the Commissioning service. Seeing the faces of the families and friends at the ceremony motivated me to cherish every second. We sat down, appropriately sang, "Great Is Thy Faithfulness," and heard from six of our peers about how the people they had met at Lee and the experiences that they had were the ones that shaped them into the people they are now.

The student speakers included Zachary Barnes, Michelle Bostic, Kenneth Fowler, Beth Houle, Chad Lee, and Loren Otten. Their stories ranged from the serious to the hilarious. Houle, a mother and graduate student, was encouraged by her professors to not drop out due to her pregnancy. They rallied around her and made it possible for her to be a wife, mother, and student. Bostic was diagnosed with cancer, but her brothers shaved their heads alongside her, while her sisters were prayer warriors. Chad Lee, a basketball player, somehow kept a dog during his freshman year in Bowdle/O'Bannon Hall, which is rumored to have driven his RA away.

Whether serious, amusing, or inspiring, the different Lee experiences that were shared portrayed a clear picture of the heart of the school. Those in the audience were given a small glimpse of what life at Lee is truly about.







Dr. Shirley Hoogstra



Jennifer Manandhar, center, was Lee University's first graduate with the Master of Science degree in higher education administration. She is joined by Dr. Bill Estes, left, and Dr. Eric Moyer.

We walked across the stage, received a Bible signed by President Conn, and read the verses that he had selected for us—Ephesians 3:16-19. This passage is meant to remind us that God's love is more than we could ever imagine, and we are called to be rooted in Christ to work together to grasp the depth of His love. Coincidentally—or

maybe not—this was the passage that carried me through my four years. We are reminded in verse 20 that the Lord promises to do “immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine.” It confirmed in me, again, that Lee was where I was meant to be. The Lord brought me here, and the Lord is going to continue to be present with me

after I leave.

After reciting the benediction for the last time, we marched down the SMC sidewalk feeling more united than ever before. The final check on the list was to get that diploma.

Saturday's service opened with Dr. Paul Conn asking grandparents, parents, and siblings of the



graduates to stand. As all my peers and I tried to find our beaming families in the crowd, it was obvious that none of us would be here without them. We had our caps, gowns, and tassels readily positioned to take the stage and receive our diploma. The next moments were spent praying, singing, “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,” and hearing the Lee Singers perform, “Abide With Me.” These moments were needed to position our minds and hearts to thankfulness and gratitude.

Dr. Shirley Hoogstra, the first female president of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities, took the shaded stage to convey to the graduates a few last thoughts before we became alumni. She shared the lessons that God was teaching her in her own life and encouraged us to consider them as we left for the real world.

Hoogstra addressed the audience by highlighting the importance in, “risking more, trusting more, worrying less, and realizing that we are blessed beyond measure.” She journeyed with us recounting her recent career change and how all of these points became crucial in her life. Her speech reminded me that our future is ultimately in the Lord's hands. We can do only so much to determine where we will go and what we will do, and the idea of giving it to Him while risking, trusting, worrying less, and acknowledging His blessings is just what we all needed to hear.

To soften the blow of leaving all our friends behind, Hoogstra said, “If your heart has been wired up for close friendships, then God will provide you with close friendships.” This was just one more example in her speech of God's providence and care over our lives.

Finally, the moment we had anxiously awaited arrived. Each



department took its turn to stand and take the long-anticipated walk across the stage, shake Dr. Conn's hand, and receive the embossed folder that would soon hold our college diploma. More than 450 degrees were conferred, both undergraduate and graduate, and what felt like three hours later, we had all graduated.

My biggest regret of the weekend is that I was thinking too much of how exciting it was going to be to shake Dr. Conn's hand that I didn't take in every possible moment while I walked on the stage. At the bottom, there was a photographer ready, but of course, I forgot to look at him. He probably couldn't have captured the largeness of the moment anyway. Similar to my college experience, this also seemed to go by extremely too fast.

As we assembled back into the crowd of black caps and gowns, the satisfaction and honor could be felt. We received the benediction and, with great pride, exited as the graduated class of 2015.

Katelyn Tresh is the daughter of Karalyn and Mickey Tresh and is from Grand Rapids, Michigan. On May 9 she received her degree in public relations with a minor in advertising.



# FACULTY AWARDS

The three most prestigious awards for Lee University faculty are awarded at spring commencement. The awards are given by President Conn who adds his personal touch to each presentation.

(l-to-r) Sheeks,  
Griffith, Schrock



## RANDY SHEEKS

### Excellence in Advising

The Lee faculty regard student advising such an important role that one of the three university-wide awards is given for doing it with excellence.

Mr. Randy Sheeks is Assistant Professor of Church Music. He has quickly

become the center of gravity for students who are preparing for a life in church music. According to his department chair, he is the “advisor to most and the mentor to all” in that field. The selection committee calls him “an exemplary model of the impact that excellent advising has on students.”



## CHAD SCHROCK

### Excellence in Scholarship

At a university who focuses on teaching, it's extraordinary how many Lee professors find time and energy to do research and other scholarly work at such a high level. In recognition of these accomplishments, we honor each year one faculty member for Excellence in Scholarship.

Dr. Chad Schrock is an assistant professor of English whose special expertise is medieval literature. He came to Lee in 2010 as a young scholar one week after completing his Ph.D. from Penn State University. During these five years of outstanding classroom

teaching, he has continued to do scholarly work in his discipline.

He has published numerous articles in top-tier journals. His first major book is titled “Consolation in Medieval Narrative,” to be published with the highly respected Palgrave Macmillan imprint.

In presenting the award, Dr. Conn said: “The life of a good Lee professor revolves around students, and when that professor also finds a way to do first-rate scholarly work, it gains our admiration. Chad Schrock is such a professor, and we take pleasure in extending to him the award for Excellence in Scholarship for 2015.”



## SHANE GRIFFITH

### Excellence in Teaching

The highest award for a Lee faculty member is the Excellence in Teaching Award. It is chosen by a committee of faculty administrators, and students from six different academic departments. At a place like Lee, no faculty activity is prized as highly as that of classroom teaching, and this award has been given for 43 years.

Dr. Shane Griffith is a Lee alum who worked in actuarial science before returning to his alma mater as a lecturer in mathematics

in 2002. What do students say about Shane? “He cares whether we learn or not.” “He takes complicated material and makes it easy to understand.” “He is simply a gifted teacher.”

Recently, an outside consultant did an in-depth analysis of the new MBA program, and in the consultant's report was this assessment: “To business students,” the consultant said, “Shane Griffith is a rock star.” Well, apparently the selection committee agrees....

# STUDENT AWARDS

Like the faculty, three graduating seniors are honored.



(l-to-r) Clark, Matthews, Taylor

## JONATHAN CLARK

### 2015 Charles Paul Conn Award

The Conn Award is given to a Lee senior who demonstrates the greatest promise of achievement in graduate or professional studies after graduating from Lee.



Clark graduated on May 9 with a bachelor's degree in mathematics. He has participated in seven math presentations, four of which were held at state and regional meetings, and submitted two manuscripts to national peer-reviewed journals. He is a tutor and a teaching assistant in math, physics, and benevolence, and he was the Tucker Scholar in Science and Math for the 2014–2015 year. Clark served as a mentor in a program funded by the Mathematical Association of America, and he was the treasurer of Lee

Prime—the university's official mathematics club.

“I wouldn't have received this award had it not been for the overwhelming support I received from the professors in the Natural Science and Mathematics Department,” said Clark. “This is a reflection of how much they continue to believe in me, not simply because of my work. I would not be where I am nor who I am today without their tremendous instruction and influence.”



## MADDIE TAYLOR

### 2015 F.J. Lee Award

This annual award is presented to a senior at Lee who has demonstrated high standards of integrity, leadership, service, broad campus involvement, and academic excellence.

In December 2014, Taylor graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in vocal music, a bachelor's in anthropology, and a minor in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages). While at Lee, she served as a volunteer English as a Second Language (ESL) tutor with Bridge Refugee Services as well as the coordinator of women's fellowship at Havenplace Community Youth Center. Taylor was a member of Alpha Chi Honors Society and was featured in the School of Music's Honors Recital in 2013 and 2014.

“It was such an honor even to be nominated for this award among so many wonderful students,” said Taylor. “Receiving the award gives me a deep sense of respect and gratitude toward my professors. Each one of them has had a profound impact on me, and I am humbled that they would recognize me in this way.”



## ASHLEY MATTHEWS

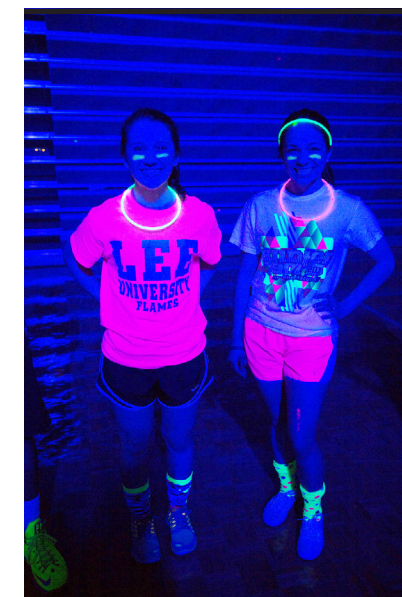
### 2015 Zeno C. Tharp Award

This annual award is given to the Lee senior who shows the greatest promise of making a significant contribution to the church.

Matthews graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in Spanish education and history. An All-American, cross country runner, Matthews served as president of Sigma Delta Pi, the national collegiate Spanish honor society. She has served in numerous missional positions, including camp director for TEAMEffort Youth Missions in Puerto Rico, Antigua, and Guatemala; translator for Sharing Christ Our Redeemer Enterprises (SCORE) International; and camp counselor for Word of Life in Costa Rica and Panama.

“My own faith is shaped by these moments when God did not have to choose me, but He loved me enough to make me uncomfortable and draw me closer to Himself,” said Matthews.





LEE  
DAY  
2015





## Moyen, Strong Named Assistant VPs; Iosia Promoted

**T**HE LEE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVED the promotion of three individuals in an administrative and academic shuffle.

Cole Strong, former director of Operations at Lee, has been promoted to assistant vice president for Operations under the supervision of the President's Office. One of Strong's primary duties of the last several years has been the everyday, on-site supervision of the construction of multiple building projects. Notable among them are the School of Religion, Science and Math Complex, and the Southside expansion, which has included the Communication Arts Building and renovation of the former First Baptist Church sanctuary into Pangle Hall.

Dr. Eric Moyen, previous chair of the Health, Exercise Science, and Secondary Education (HESSE) Department, was named assistant vice president for Academic Affairs under the leadership of Vice President Debbie Murray. Moyen, a member of the Lee faculty since 2004, has also served as coordinator of the "teaching coaches" faculty development initiative, and he initiated the Lee University Oral History Project. A professor of education, he served as director of First-Year Programs from 2010–2014.



Named to head HESSE was Dr. Mike Iosia, who joined the Department of Health, Exercise Science and Secondary Education as an assistant professor of exercise physiology in the fall of 2007. Iosia spent nine years as a strength and conditioning coach at the NCAA Division I-A level and had coaching stops at the University of Southern Mississippi, Auburn University, Tulane University, and spent the last year of his Ph.D. studies as an intern in the University of Alabama Strength and Conditioning Department.



## Three Get Servant Leadership Award

**L**EE STUDENTS BRAD LACHAPPELL AND CHRIS Sarmiento and associate professor of Athletic Training, Dr. DeWayne Knight, were respectively presented with the 2015 Dr. Charles W. Conn Servant Leadership Award and the Dr. Charles W. Conn Service Learning Faculty Award, for their exemplary work in service learning.

The award was established in 2003 to honor President Emeritus Charles W. Conn. He served as Lee's president from 1970 to 1982, and his tenure was marked by a spirit of servant leadership. The student recognition is given annually to rising seniors who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to service during their time at Lee.

LaChapell has served extensively with Crossover Ministries, a Lee program which provides groceries and fellowship to Cleveland residents in need. In addition, he has been a resident chaplain for two years, served as a lab assistant for Foundations of Benevolence, and has been a member of the leadership team for Alternative Chapel.

Sarmiento has also served with Crossover for almost three years. She has been a resident chaplain for two years and served as an intern in the Leonard Center. During her time as a leader with Crossover, the number of people served and the number of people serving has increased significantly.

Knight is a doctor in Lee's Health Clinic and a Global Perspectives trip leader. Over the years, Knight has provided medical care to thousands of Lee students and employees. He has made four medical missions trips to Honduras, four to Guatemala, and 10 to Cuba, and he involves students in the treatment of patients on these trips.



Pictured (left to right) are President Conn, Christina Sarmiento, Brad LaChapell, Dr. DeWayne Knight, Dr. William Lamb, and Mike Hayes.

## Lee Group Wins Regional 'Startup' Competition

**R**EMEDY FLIES OF LEE UNIVERSITY WALKED AWAY with the Southern regional prize of \$20,000 from Elevate—a national, faith-based business plan competition for college students.

Driven by the core belief that they are called to care for the poor and oppressed, Remedy Flies has discovered a way to help oppressed populations by empowering them to better care for themselves. Remedy Flies will work in Cambodia and Nepal, where they will provide training and employment for impoverished people, while also educating their children and supporting the work of local churches.

Remedy Flies will make hand-tied flies for the fly fishing market. According to the presentation that earned them the regional title, market conditions show a backlog of supply for current demand and an even greater need for the projected demand over three to five years. Remedy Flies will partner with Rainy's Flies to help fill their current supply shortage, with plans to grow from there. This is possible through their partnership with People for Care and Learning (PCL), an organization dedicated to serving the poor by helping children, widows, and their communities worldwide reach their full potential.

(left-to-right): Lee business majors and "Remedy Flies" creators Ali DiGirolamo, Rebecca Thomas, Derek Murray, Caroline Campbell, and Josh Murphy.



## Lee Hosts Great Strides, 65 Roses

**T**HE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL GREAT Strides weekend was held on March 28 on the Lee campus. Twenty-eight walk teams, comprising over three hundred participants, walked the five kilometer course to raise money and awareness for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Prior to the walk, the thirteenth annual 65 Roses 5K drew over 500 runners on a chilly morning to run the streets of Cleveland. The cool temps didn't hurt the winning times as Amy Carpenter was the overall women's winner with a time of 19:18, and Paul Schupp was the overall winner of the men's race with a time of 16:34.

"Best of all, this year's walk, the 65 Roses 5K, corporate sponsorship, and other wrap-around events raised \$74,147 for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation," said Dr. Bill Estes, long-time coordinator of the Lee event. "There have been some remarkable and truly amazing breakthroughs recently in both the treatment and control of this disease, and Lee University is thrilled each spring to partner in this event."

Lee University's total amount raised after 15 years of hosting Great Strides stands at \$787,805.







## Interior Getting Focus of Southern Campus Progress

The third level of the former FBC educational wing has been gutted to the beams awaiting the implementation of a master plan for the building.

**A**FTER AN EXTENDED SLATE OF CONSTRUCTION AND EARTH MOVING, THE south end of campus has seen a quieter period as of late. The site of the parking lot of the former First Baptist Church has found a temporary use as a soccer practice field as the lawn sown last year has come in nicely. The site is the future location of The Forum, announced in the last issue of *Torch*, as well as a new School of Nursing.

Although work on the exterior of the former FBC educational wing has been quiet, inside the walls and infrastructure are being gutted to make room for a new home for the Department of Business and the recently launched MBA program.

"After analyzing the plans, it made sense to gut the interior of the building, so we could design a more effective layout," said Assistant Vice President for Operations Cole Strong. "With a clean slate of square footage, we have much more flexibility to design exactly what it is needed for the academic programs that will be taught in this space in the future."

## Lee Awarded Better Business Bureau Award

**L**EE UNIVERSITY RECENTLY RECEIVED A "TORCH Award for Marketplace Ethics" from the Better Business Bureau (BBB) serving Southeast Tennessee



and Northwest Georgia. Lee won in the "nonprofit" category alongside a charity nonprofit winner and four other business winners from the region.

Torch awards are given to companies, both for-profit and nonprofit, to bestow public recognition on businesses and organizations that maintain a solid

commitment to conducting their business practices in an ethical fashion. They are designed to promote not only the importance of ethical business practices, but the willingness and efforts made by outstanding businesses to ensure that the marketplace remains fair and honorable. To receive a Torch Award, a business must first be nominated by a sponsor and then submit an extensive application detailing the organization's ethical standards, decision-making strategies, marketing practices, history, and community service. Winners are chosen by a panel of judges composed of prominent businesspeople and community educators.

Brian Conn, Director of Public Relations at Lee, accepted the award on behalf of the university at the annual meeting in Chattanooga on May 13.

"It's a great personal honor for me to be able to represent the 700 people at Lee who work hard to build trust in the community in the business that we do," said Conn.

The mission of the BBB is to promote and foster the highest ethical relationship between businesses and the public through voluntary self-regulation, consumer and business education, and service excellence.



Carlson



Peterson

**D**R. KATHERINE CARLSON AND DR. BRIAN PETERSON have been awarded Postdoctoral Faculty Fellowships from the Appalachian College Association (ACA) for use on individual projects this summer.

The ACA is a nonprofit collaboration of 35 private four-year liberal arts institutions spread across the central Appalachian Mountains in Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. The organization helps develop and share ideas, information, programs, and resources among its members to achieve

## Two Faculty Get ACA Awards

its goals of serving the people of Appalachia through higher education and related services.

Carlson's work is titled, "Prodigies in Print: How Bestselling 19th-Century Children Changed Literary History and Why We Forgot Them." Carlson is an assistant professor of English at Lee.

Peterson will continue his research and archeological work in Israel, where the project has already received significant recognition. His discovery of an Egyptian amulet was noted by *Christianity Today* as the most important archaeological discovery of 2013. He is an assistant professor of Old Testament at Lee. "We know we have outstanding faculty at Lee, but it is always affirming when they are individually recognized by other organizations," said Dr. Debbie Murray, vice president for Academic Affairs at Lee. "We celebrate with Drs. Carlson and Peterson, and we congratulate them for this recognition of their research."

## Summerlin Receives Rahamut Award

**D**R. DONNA SUMMERLIN PROFESSOR OF English at Lee, has been named the winner of the 2015 Janet Rahamut Award.

The Janet Rahamut Award is given in recognition to the faculty member that exhibits the most heart for students evidenced by frequent interaction and positive involvement with them outside of the classroom. The award is named in memory of Dr. Janet Rahamut, a veteran English professor whose tragic death in 2000 shocked the campus. The award was created to honor Rahamut's dedication to her students, in and out of the classroom.

"Donna Summerlin was a close personal friend as well as colleague of Janet Rahamut, but more than that, she embodies much of Janet's spirit in her desire to sacrificially serve students," said Dr. Jean Eledge, chair of the Department of Language and Literature. "She has invested in Lee as a professor who loves students for 27 years."



Summerlin

The recipient of the Janet Rahamut Award is chosen by a student committee of the Student Leadership Council and sponsored by the Vice President for Student Development.

## Bledsoe Named 2015 West Point Fellow



Bledsoe

**D**R. DREW BLEDSOE, assistant professor of history at Lee, was selected as a fellow in the 2015 West Point Summer Seminar in Military History. The seminar took place June 1-16 at the United States Military Academy and highlighted the Civil War.

This fully funded, in-residence program is designed to enrich the research and

teaching abilities of young faculty and enhance their ability to teach academic military history. Sessions included days of "staff rides" at battlefield sites like Gettysburg and Antietam, along with 10 days of research colloquia, guest-speaker lectures, faculty-led pedagogy sessions, historical weapons displays, and tactical demonstrations.

Bledsoe was one of 14 fellows chosen from an applicant pool of more than 100 candidates. He is the author of a number of scholarly works on the Civil War and American military history, including the forthcoming book, *Citizen-Officers: The Union and Confederate Volunteer Junior Officer Corps in the American Civil War* (Louisiana State University Press, 2015).



Finch



Lamb



Salyer



# Finch, Lamb, Salyer Earn Doctorates

**M**ICHAEL FINCH, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR of communication, William Lamb, director of the Lee University Leonard Center, and Jeff Salyer, newly appointed director of Media Services at Lee, recently earned doctoral degrees from Regent University in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Salyer's dissertation titled, "The Value Restoration Model: Pixar and the Rhetoric of the American Dream," examined the rhetoric and worldview found in Pixar Animation Studios feature films. The films that were referenced included, *Finding Nemo*, *The Incredibles*, *Up*, and the *Toy Story* saga.

Lamb's dissertation titled, "Service-Learning and University Students' Motivation to Lead," investigated the relationship between students' service experiences and their motivation for leadership. According to Lamb, the data revealed that students' service-learning experiences, their self-efficacy, and their perceived leadership skills all have a strong bearing on their desire to show leadership.

Finch's dissertation, titled "Identity and Culture Maintenance Among Soviet Evangelicals: A Resistance Study," analyzed the memories retold in the stories of 15 Soviet Evangelical Christians, seeking to establish thematic commonalities.

All three formally received their degrees during ceremonies on May 9 at Regent.

# Eledge Named Distinguished Professor

**D**R. JEAN ELEDGE, A MEMBER OF THE LEE FACULTY SINCE 1990 was recently named Distinguished Professor of French by the Lee Board of Directors. The title is the highest that can be bestowed on a member of the faculty.

Having previously been recognized as a Tennessee Teacher of the Year during her time at Cleveland (Tenn.) High School, Dr. Eledge went on to receive the Lee University Excellence in Teaching Award in 1995. She holds a doctorate in foreign language curriculum/instruction and an MA in French from the University of Tennessee Knoxville. Her BA in French is from Carson-Newman University.

Her teaching, research and presentations focus primarily on effective teaching, the integration of faith and learning, and leadership studies. She currently teaches the capstone course for all foreign language and TESOL majors.

Dr. Eledge provides leadership to the campus in various capacities through her role as chair of the Department of Language and Literature.

Eledge



# Promotions in Faculty Rank

**T**HE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE LEE FACULTY WERE recommended for promotion and approved by the Board of Directors at their May 2015 meeting:

## FROM ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR TO PROFESSOR:

**HISTORY** - John Coats, Ph.D., Texas A&M  
*Member of the faculty since 2006*

**ENGLISH** - Andrew Lee, Ph.D., University of Tennessee at Knoxville  
*Member of the faculty since 1996*

## FROM ASSISTANT PROFESSOR TO ASSOCIATE

**BIOLOGY** - John Hisey, Ph.D., University of Memphis  
*Member of the faculty since 1996*

**PHILOSOPHY** - Timothy Miller, Ph.D., University of Oklahoma  
*Member of the faculty since 2008*

**SPANISH** - Alexander Steffanell, Ph.D., University of Florida  
*Member of the faculty since 2007*

## FROM ASSOCIATE TO SENIOR LECTURER

Mary Dukes, M.A., University of Central Florida  
*Member of the faculty since 1999*



Coats



Dukes



Hisey



Lee



Miller



Steffanell





# THE Behind-the-Scenes STARS

*The team that keeps the Lee University engine running and its surface pretty, moves into a well-deserved new home.*

BY BRIANNA PUGH

**T**HE PHYSICAL PLANT IS THE BACKBONE OF LEE UNIVERSITY. The school has always prided itself on having a beautiful campus, and it is the Physical Plant's job to achieve that goal. Not only do they keep the lawns mowed, buildings cleaned, and fix practically anything that is broken, but they also are in charge of all event setups on campus and work extra hours to prepare for special events such as move-in day, graduation, Frontline, and Lee Day.

Made up of 68 employees, the Physical Plant includes three departments: Maintenance, Building Services, and Grounds. The Physical Plant expresses the importance of working together to understand the purpose and mission of the university, while incorporating that with more focused departmental goals. The team is involved with enhancing the Lee University experience for faculty, staff, students, and visitors.

Last year, Larry Berry the director of the Physical Plant announced that the department would be moving to a new location. In their "spare time," Maintenance and Grounds worked to build and oversee the complete renovation of the new facility. In April, the Physical Plant moved from the Pressley Maintenance Building, located at 1000 Barnes



Street, just down the road to their new home at 480 Eighth Street. The move was very beneficial, as it allowed for all departments to be located in one place. Previously, the three teams operated out of separate locations, which when totaled came to 9,000 square feet. The new shop, at almost 13,000 square feet provides plenty of room for the necessary individual offices and workshops, as well as storage for equipment.

Over the last decade, staff levels in the department have remained constant despite the growth the campus has experienced. Berry explains that this has been possible due to the excellence of the staff.

"We have streamlined processes and approaches

to handle the increased workloads while at the same time maintaining a high level of service to the campus overall," Berry stated. "This is a combination of having really great people on our staff, who have the willingness to try different approaches, and who have the flexibility to change them if they don't work or produce the results we had hoped for."

The Physical Plant has grown from a small shop located in the middle of campus just behind Nora Chambers, to the built-out warehouse facility of today. Moving forward, the staff and leaders of each department plan to continue the expectations of a high work ethic while producing excellence.

## PHYSICAL FACTS

### EMPLOYEES:

**Building Services** 46  
**Grounds** 9  
**Maintenance** 13  
**Office** 5

### PEOPLE SERVED:

**4,900** students  
**409** staff  
**291** faculty

### BIG EQUIPMENT:

**Trucks** 14  
**Kawasaki Mules** 18  
**Golf Carts** 5  
**Kubota RTV 2**  
**60" Hustler lawn mower** 6  
**Toro Reel Mower**  
**Toro Rotary Mower**  
**Dump Truck**  
**John Deere tractor with loader**  
**TRICO Caterpillar**  
**Case Skid steer loader**



### GROUND

One employee from Grounds is responsible for attending to **11.91 acres per day** (10 football fields).



### BUILDING SERVICES

One employee from Building Services is responsible for attending to **29,574 square feet per day** (size of Atkins-Ellis Hall).



### MAINTENANCE

One employee from Maintenance is responsible for attending to **104,648 square feet per day** (two Humanities buildings).





*Weather finally permitted  
graduation to be held on the lawn  
of the Science and Math Complex.*





# LEE STUDENTS 'DISCOVER' the LAST FRONTIER

BY LAURA ANDERSON

The Alaska, summer, cross cultural trip, sponsored by the Department of Early Childhood, Elementary and Special Education, was established to give students the opportunity to study the Alaskan Native groups living in five distinct geographical areas: the Inupiaq of northern Alaska, the Athabaskan of the interior, the Yupik and Cupik of southwestern Alaska, the Aleut and Alutiiq of the Aleutian Islands, and the tribes in the Alaskan panhandle—the Eyak, Haida, Tsimshian and Tlingit. The 11 students, primarily teacher education majors, arrived May 9 and were immediately overwhelmed with the beauty of the Alaskan landscape. The following day at the Alaska Native Heritage Center in Anchorage, students learned about the characteristics and traditions of these groups as they viewed native dances, sporting events, traditions, and dress, which prepared them for our trip to Kotzebue, an Inupiaq village 26 miles above the Arctic Circle and accessible only by airplane or by boat. Trip participants were already pen pals with **ALLISON CROSSAN'S ('08)** first graders at June Nelson Elementary, and Lee students hosted a celebration to meet them in person. Activities in Kotzebue included ice fishing, visiting a native craft shop, riding on the tundra, visiting the local native corporation NANA, and hearing stories from



Lindsey Prok helps a child with a craft at Kidfest.

The group at host church Kotzebue Church of God prior to our Kidfest event.

natives about their lives and the Inupiaq culture. The highlight of the week was the Kidfest celebration they sponsored for children in the community with games, refreshments, and crafts. On the final day in Kotzebue, we were treated to a supper of native foods consisting of Moose stew, shii fish (some of which our students had caught the day before), mukluk (whale blubber), halibut, and Akutaq (Eskimo ice cream).

Our next destination was Soldotna, about 700 miles south on the Kenai Peninsula. In this traditional land of the Athabascans, we visited the Kenaitze Indian Tribe's Kuya Qyut'anen Early Childhood Center for a tour of their facility and the Yaghanen Youth Center

Gale Winter cleans her catch from ice fishing!



which provides cultural activities for area youth. During the course of our trip, we were able to Skype with two Lee alums who shared their teaching experiences in the Alaskan bush schools. **ASHLEY PATTERSON ('14)** teaches third to fifth grades in Kobuk, and **JESSIE PETERSEN ('07)** is a Special Education administrator in St. Michael.

Students enjoyed a tour of the Alaskan Native Medical Center which provides and manages health care services for more than 143,000 Alaska Native and American Indian people living in Alaska. A final excursion was a ride on the Alaska Railroad to the tiny town of Talkeetna, Alaska—the “jumping off place” to climb Mt. McKinley also known by the natives as Denali.

## REFLECTIONS FROM STUDENTS SUMMARIZE THE EFFECTS OF THIS TRIP:

“One of the most memorable experiences I had was ice fishing on the Kotzebue Sound. There are no strangers on the ice; everyone shares fishing equipment and fishing holes. While we were out on the ice, the natives were more than willing to lend a hand to anyone in need. They taught us their unique ways of fishing, such as making a hole in the ice, attaching the line to the wooden handle, reeling in the line by hand, and cleaning a fish with an ulu.”

—**JESSI CALLAHAN**

“I honestly don't think I can go the rest of my life without returning to Kotz and the beautiful state of Alaska.”

—**RACHEL LOCKE**

“One of my favorite things was talking and connecting with some of the Special Education teachers and their students. Each of those students has a different story, and I was privileged to meet them and see their smiles.”

—**ABIGAIL BULLARD**

“We were privileged to meet many wonderful people. These are people with a very split culture—(1) they try to maintain their ancestor's heritage, and (2) they strive to take part in the modern connected world. Our group had an amazing chance to join in with the subsistence living of the locals. We ate wild berries, caught local fish from the ice, and had local game, which were all prepared into the native people's recipes in Kotzebue.”

—**JORDAN GLOVER**

In conclusion, **KATE BENDER** summarized our 17 days, hundreds of miles, interacting with the Inupiaq and Athabaskan natives by saying: “My cross cultural trip has been a life-changer for me.” ■

*Dr. Laura Anderson is a member of the faculty at the Helen DeVos College of Education.*



Inupiaq friends share stories and demonstrate using a native drum with music.

The group out on beautiful Kotzebue Sound.





## Lady Flames Claim National NCCAA Title

**T**HE THIRD TIME PROVED TO BE A CHARM FOR Coach Marty Rowe and his Lee University women's basketball team. Two years ago the Lady Flames were beaten in the final round of the NAIA National Tournament. Last season Lee lost in the NCCAA National Championship game to rival Union University. But this year, there was no denying the Lee women. They defeated Bethesda University (Calif.) 95-59 to convincingly win the NCCAA national title earlier this year.

Freshman Shelby Brown was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player. She finished

the championship game with a double-double, 19 points and 10 rebounds.

The Lady Flames finished with an impressive 23-8 record and won their last eight contests.

Not only did the Lady Flames shine on the basketball court, but also they were outstanding in the classroom. Those named to the Gulf South Conference Academic Honors list were Kayla Beavers, Shelby Brown, Georgia Ford, Jasmine Hill, Rebecca Jameson, Christina Johnson, Lindsey Jones, Madison Alexander, Jordan Neuharth, Caroline Smith, Emileigh Swafford, Alex Swope, and Erin Walsh.



The Lee women's basketball team became the fourth Lee athletic team to win a NCCAA National Championship this year when they captured the title at Grace College (Winona Lakes, Ind.) The Lady Flames joined the men's cross country team (fall season), and the men and women's soccer teams in bringing home national crowns.



## Yelton—Lee's Most Successful Coach in History—Resigns

**L**EE UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S SOCCER coach, Matt Yelton, has resigned and been named the executive director of Chattanooga FC Academy.

Yelton was the most successful coach in Lee's sports history. In 13 seasons, he recorded a 252-42-2 record, won 11 conference championships and an unprecedented four consecutive NAIA National Championships (2008–2011). His overall record in the Southern States Athletic Conference (SSAC) was a remarkable 89-0-1.

After moving to NCAA Division II and facing Gulf South Conference (GSC) competition, Yelton's teams continued their winning ways, posting an 18-2-0 record over the past two years and claiming the unofficial GSC title last season. His team topped off the 2014 campaign by winning the NCCAA national title.

"First, I want to say how much I

appreciate Lee president, Dr. Paul Conn, and all the support he has given to me and the women's soccer program," said Yelton. "He has been an outstanding example and mentor to me, and I am a better coach today because I had the opportunity to work for him." Yelton continued, "This has not been an easy decision for me...I have come to realize how very lucky I was to get to coach so many wonderful young women, and I am so proud of what the Lee women's soccer family was able to accomplish."

Dr. Conn expressed praise for Yelton: "As hard as it was for me to accept this decision, I really respect Coach Yelton for the way he has gone about it. This gives us a chance to solidify the program and prepare for a great season next year."

Lee Athletic director, Larry Carpenter, said, "Coach Yelton is one of the brightest and hardest working coaches I have had the privilege of knowing and working with. His ability to recruit outstanding student athletes and have them playing at an elite level each and every day is remarkable."

Conn and Carpenter confirmed that Assistant Coach Chris Hennessey will take over the women's program and lead the team through spring practices and the 2015 season.

Hennessey was an outstanding defender for the Lee men's soccer team from 2006–2009. He spent three years working with All-Pro Sports in Manchester, England. He returned to the states and was director of coaching for Central Maine United (a youth soccer program) before returning to Lee and assisting Yelton for the past three years.



Yelton and Hennessey stand on the sidelines



# Lee Men Golf Their Way to ‘Unofficial’ Championship

THE LEE MEN’S GOLF TEAM RAN AWAY WITH THE unofficial Gulf South Conference Championship, winning by a full 10 strokes over the University of West Florida at the Tunica National course.

Due to Lee’s reclassification process into the GSC and NCAA Division II, the Tunica Argonauts will represent the GSC in the South Region tournament. The Flames staked their claim to the title by finishing atop the leaderboard. The win marks the fifth team title in 11 tournaments for the Flames during the 2014–2015 campaign.

The Flames shot a 54-hole team total of 300-280-285 - 866. West Florida was second (876). North Alabama (882) finished third while Delta State (886) and Valdosta State (888) rounded out the top five.

Lee junior Peyton Sliger shared the tournament’s medalist honors with West Florida’s Esteban Castro. Sliger fired a sizzling three-under par 69 in the final round to go along with earlier rounds of 74-72. It was the first individual title for the junior. The Flames also had three players place in the top five.

The future is bright as Coach John Maupin’s squad returns four players next season who participated in the conference championship victory.



Coach John Maupin (far right) is coach of the women’s and men’s golf teams.

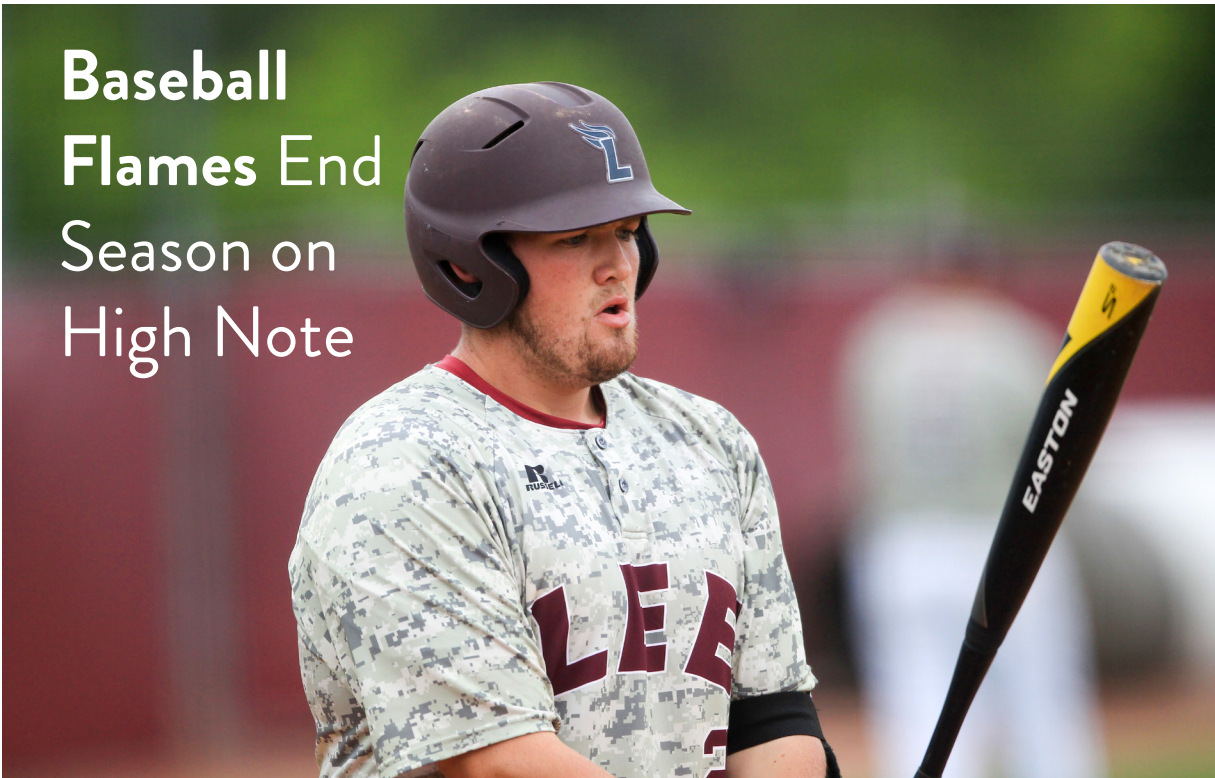
# Lee Women Place Second

THE LEE WOMEN’S GOLF TEAM MADE a strong statement to close its spring season and final year before being fully eligible for conference and NCAA Division II postseason play during the 2015–2016 school year. The Lady Flames placed second at the Gulf South Conference Championship and each Lee player posted rounds in the 70s during the final round of the tournament. The Lady Flames trailed only West Florida, who won the tournament for the tenth straight time with a 910-team total.

Junior Bernadette Little and freshman Caroline Moore led the charge for the Lady Flames. The twosome finished tied for seventh (230) in the medalist competition. Little ended with a final round of 76 to go along with her 81-73, while Moore shot a 74 to pace the team in round three.

The Lady Flames will return four of five players, as Coach John Maupin and his squad will be fully eligible for postseason play beginning next season.

# Baseball Flames End Season on High Note



Ben Holland has been the home run and RBI leader for the Flames this season.

IT HAS BEEN AN UP-AND-DOWN SEASON FOR THE Lee baseball team, but in the end the Flames posted 39 victories, including 17 Gulf South Conference (GSC) wins. In the final 19 games, the Flames went an impressive 15-4.

At the NCCAA World Series, the baseball Flames wrapped up their season with an appearance in the finals. They had to settle for runner-up as they were defeated by Fresno Pacific 6-2 at the tourney which ended May 23 in Mason, Ohio.

During the season, the Flames were impressive in sweeping GSC opponents Christian Brothers, Missis-

sippi College, North Alabama, and Union University. They also defeated nonconference NCAA Division II foes Tusculum, Young-Harris, Trevecca, Carson-Newman, and Bellarmine.

It was a solid year for several Flames. Junior Ben Holland hit .312 and blasted 11 home runs. He drove in 37 runs and also paces his team in runs scored (36) and slugging percentage (.618). Lee pitching was dominated by senior Dustin Lawson (6-1). He had an ERA of 2.48, toed the rubber for 87 innings, recorded 67 strikeouts, and walked 26. Other top hurlers were Trent Hill, Jacob Potts, Ridge Ackerman, Grayson Bailey, and Chevis Hoover.

# Stanley Butler Golf Shootout 2015

GARY ROMINGER, TARRY WALKER, MATT CROWDER, AND Harry Ledford combined to fire a 52 and win the Stanley Butler Shootout at the Chatata Valley Golf Club in Cleveland in early May. The foursome fired a sizzling 20-under par 52 and walked away with top honors in the annual tourney, hosted each year by the Lee University Athletic Department. The team of Jerry Burrell, Jeff Davis, Al Miller, and Miles Mosley placed second with a 58.

“We couldn’t have asked for a better day,” said Lee’s golf coach, John Maupin. “It was time well spent with some great supporters of our Athletics Department. The golf course was in great shape, and we got a lot of great help in making this a fun day for all participants. I am very grateful to all who played and to each of our sponsors who helped make it possible.”



Shootout winners display their hardware.



## Alexander and Lee Garner Conn Awards

**M**ADISON ALEXANDER AND CHAD LEE WERE selected as the winners of the Lee University Charles Paul Conn Athlete of the Year Award by the coaches and athletic administration staff. The awards are presented annually to individuals who best exemplify the athletic, academic, and spiritual leadership of Lee University student athletes.

### ALEXANDER'S ACCOLADES:

MADISON HAS A 3.99 CUMULATIVE GPA AS A Business major. On the golf course Madison was a major contributor to women's team. During a stretch of 40 tournaments, she has been part of 19-team wins, two SSAC Conference Championships and one NCCAA National Championship. She has also won two collegiate tournaments individually—the 2014 BSC Southern Shootout and the 2012 Lady Flames Shootout. She was voted as SSAC Freshman of the Year in 2011–2012. Academically, she is a three-time WGCA Academic All-American and a two-time NCCAA Scholar Athlete. This year she was also chosen as the women's golf award winner for the NCCAA Game Plan 4 Life Character Award—the NCCAA's signature award, where only one athlete is selected from each sport.

## Cross Country Team Competes at Nationals

**T**HE LEE MEN PLACED EIGHTH AND THE WOMEN TWELFTH AT THE 2015 National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) National Championships.

The Lee men placed eight athletes in scoring position (top eight) and had three athletes earn NCCAA All-American status in four different events.

Freshman Seth Eagleson gave the Flames their first individual title with a mark of 32:03.89 in the 10,000 meter run. He crossed the finish line more than eight seconds ahead of runner-up Timothy Zuercher of Oklahoma Christian University.

The 4 x 800-meter relay team of Emmanuel Kipchumba, Adam Gullette, Terris Elliott and Harold Smith gave the men's squad its second win. The foursome posted a time of 7:35.61 to win by over three seconds and set a new NCCAA National Championship record.

For the women, Adrian Martin led the way with two second-place finishes and two NCCAA All-American honors. Martin finished the 100-meter dash in 12.20. Audrey Smith finished just outside of All-American status with a fourth-place finish in the 3,000-meter steeplechase. She recorded a time of 11:41.13.

An amazing overview of the men and women's track/cross country year in review:

There were 24 NCCAA All-Americans, four individual NCCAA champions, a relay championship team, an NCCAA Cross Country team championship, (unofficial) GSC championship, 18 school records, and NCCAA Cross Country Coach of the Year Award.



### LEE'S ACCOLADES:

CHAD WAS A NCCAA SCHOLAR-ATHLETE AND NAMED TO THE Gulf South Conference Honor Roll. He was a member of the SSAC All-Freshman team and a two-time SSAC Scholar Athlete. Known for his overall leadership on the playing court, Chad tallied 500 points and grabbed 500 rebounders during his outstanding four-year career. The Flames claimed 78 wins over the past four seasons and lost 43 contests. He helped direct Lee to the SSAC East Regular Season title in 2012–2013—a season the Flames finished with a 30–4 record. He has maintained a 3.77 GPA as a business administration major with a financial emphasis.



## Softball Finishes 4th in Gulf South

**L**EE'S 2015 LADY FLAMES SOFTBALL TEAM FINISHED the 2015 season with a 36-19 record and an 18-11 conference mark, good enough for fourth place in the Gulf South Conference (GSC). The year was highlighted by 2-of-3 wins over Shorter University. The Lady Hawks won the GSC tourney title and claimed the region crown NCAA region title and earned a spot in the NCAA Division II World Series.

Against NCCAA competition, the Lady Flames captured the Mid-East Region Championship and finished third in the NCCAA World Series.

Coach Emily Russell was named the NCCAA Mid-East Region Coach of the Year. Slugger Kaylie Drew joined Russell as the NCCAA Region Player of the Year; Her 18 home runs tied Johnna Gomez for the single-season home run record. She was also a NCCAA Scholar-Athlete and named to the GSC Honor Roll.

### OTHER AWARDS:

**DOMINIQUE HANNAH**—NCCAA All-Tournament Team, NCCAA All-Region Team  
**LEXIE DEAN**—NCCAA All-Tournament Team, NCCAA All-Region Team, NCCAA Scholar-Athlete, GSC Honor Roll;  
**AMANDA LYNN**—NCCAA All-Region Team;  
**ANGIE HUGHES**—NCCAA Scholar-Athlete, GSC Honor Roll;  
**BROOKE BAILEY**—GSC Honor Roll;  
**LEIGH BEATENBOUGH**—GSC Honor Roll;  
**EMILY DAGNAN**—NCCAA Scholar-Athlete, GSC Honor Roll;  
**BRIANNA EICHBAUM**—GSC Honor Roll;  
**HOLLEY GRAY**—GSC Honor Roll;  
**SARAH MERCED**—GSC Honor Roll;  
**RACHEL POLACEK**—GSC Honor Roll.



Amanda Lynn is urged to break for the plate by NCCAA Mid-East Coach of Year Emily Russell





Former tennis pro and current Lee faculty member Kay McDaniel closed out the 2015 edition of her popular tennis clinic on June 5 with an awards ceremony and pep talk with her young recruits to the sport. This is the 24th year Kay has conducted the free clinic for boys and girls ages 6-13, where Christian character is heavily emphasized. There is an expressed Biblical theme for the week and personal stories are shared each day demonstrating how to overcome obstacles.



**DAL**  
 SPOTLIGHT

# DIVISION OF ADULT LEARNING BOASTS LARGEST CLASS, FIRST MASTERS GRADS

By Dennis Purvis

**T**HOSE ATTENDING SPRING COMMENCEMENT might have noticed an “older” flavor to the ceremony with 65 graduates from the Division of Adult Learning (DAL) contributing to the university’s largest-ever graduating class.

It was a record for the DAL as well, as total of 45 graduates crossed the stage to receive their diplomas after completing their degree programs from Lee University Online or Charlotte Center. Another 20 graduated in absentia.

For DAL Executive Director Dr. Joshua Black, the record number was “more than gratifying.”

“Knowing that faculty and staff had worked with these students for several years, and in some cases decades, to arrive at that point in their life, was moving,” Black said. “Seeing the adult children and grandkids of our graduating students jump up and down for their loved ones walking across the stage is a moment that never gets old.”

Included in these numbers were the first graduates of the university’s only online graduate program – the Master of Arts in Ministry Studies. The program, headed by Dr. Lisa Long from the School of Religion, began in the fall of 2013 and is currently one of the fastest-growing programs at the university. According to Long, these first graduates should be celebrated as an “initial indicator of the success of our online master’s program.”

For Dr. Terry Cross, Dean of the School of Religion, there was “immense pride” in watching these first online graduates finish their program. Cross teaches some of the online courses and believes that gives him a unique insight.

Cross said, “Because of the way the online experience is configured, I feel like I knew these students lives and ways of thinking better than many of my on-campus students. They live in such different places, engage in such varied forms of ministry, and pursue learning with such motivated passion, that when I saw them come across the platform to be ‘hooded’ I wanted to pause the program and tell everyone just how great

these students were.”

A large portion of the 61 adults who received their undergrad degrees did so through the DAL’s online degree completion program – the Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies. This program allows students to use upper level coursework from across the Liberal Arts spectrum to develop individualized specialty areas.

Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences Dr. Matthew Melton said, “Completing a degree in the traditional way is not always possible. So many people find themselves in situations where they have to step away from the traditional education mode, but still really hope to finish. We have always been about partnering with people who needed a step up to get where they are going.”

For many DAL graduates, their degree is a milestone in a ministry career that some are just beginning, while others are transitioning to a new time in their lives as pastors, mentors, counselors, worship leaders, youth pastors or lay ministers.

For Melton, helping these adult students is part of “our heritage and our mission” as a university – something that gets reaffirmed with every graduate.

“Graduation is never more special than at the moment when someone who has put an extra measure of blood, sweat and tears into their degree gets the chance to walk across that platform,” Melton said. “I’ve seen people in their sixties shaking the president’s hand with tears streaming down their faces. You’d have to be a stone not to be moved by the sight, and you’d have to be a lump of coal not to feel that your

calling just got affirmed in the most amazing way possible.”



Rev. R. Gary Caruthers, '15, (middle) shows off his diploma with Austin and Micayla Chapman, two members of Montclair Tabernacle Church of God, where Caruthers has been pastor for 34 years. Caruthers completed his degree in Liberal Studies while pastoring full-time in Dumfries, Va.

For more information on the Lee DAL program, contact:

**Dennis Purvis**

**Director of Enrollment Services**

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# WHO'S WHERE & TORCH TRAVELS

We need YOU! Please help us populate the Who's Where section by taking a moment to send us your latest update. Simply go to [leeuniversity.edu/alumni](http://leeuniversity.edu/alumni) and click on the alumni & friends link. There's a link there for *Torch* and the opportunity to update us. Send us a photo, too

## 1980s

**Rachel Cornelius Phillips '82**, graduated from Catawba Valley Community College in 2007 with two associate degrees. She graduated from Gardner-Webb University in 2009 with a B.S. degree and then again in 2013 with a master of divinity from Gardner-Webb University School of Divinity. She is currently pursuing a master of business administration degree from Strayer University. Rachel has held positions as an evangelist, outreach pastor, and an assistant pastor. She is currently a member of Hartzell United Memorial United Methodist Church in Hickory, N.C.

**Duane Dansby '84** and his wife, Rene, celebrated 30 years of marriage with an anniversary trip to Jamaica and Mexico last October. Duane is currently in graduate school studying for an MBA degree. He is a certified fraud examiner, and recently he has been promoted to corporate controller for a large regional transportation company in Forest Park, Georgia. Duane plays piano for his local church, Griffin Center Point Church, in Griffin, Ga. Duane says, “The older I get the more I understand how influential my mentor at Lee College, Dr. Roosevelt Miller, director of the Ladies of Lee choir, was in my life. I began playing at

Lee and have played now for more than 30 years. Wow, what a true teacher. God bless you, Dr. Miller.”



**Brian '89 and Cathy '90**

**Yaun**, recently shared some love for their alma mater in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. Brian serves as State Youth and Discipleship director for the Church of God in Tennessee, while Cathy is state Girls Ministries coordinator, teaches English for Lee Online, and works as a continuing advisor with the Division of Adult Learning. They are the parents of two sons: Brad, who graduated from Lee in 2012, and Brandon, who is enrolled in Summer Honors this summer.



**Dr. Billy Darrell Bewley '83, Priscilla Foshee Tarpley '80, Sharon Green Ballinger '94, Travis Wayne Ballinger '94 and Curtis Akers '75**

recently traveled to Jerusalem. Here, they are overlooking Mt. Moriah, the Eastern Gate, and the Temple Mount with *Torch* in hand.


Bewley, Tarpley, Ballinger, Akers






**Courtney Ashley Van Horn '98** is married to Andrew; they have one child and live in Atlanta. Courtney is in risk management software sales, and her husband owns and operates several urgent care clinics within the Atlanta area.

2000s


 **Jessica Rodriguez Divel '04** was the 2015 recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award from Tennessee Christian Preparatory School located in Cleveland, Tenn. Presenting the award was former Lee dean of students, Dr. Bill Balzano, who serves as president of TCPS. Balzano said of Divel: "She consistently models educational professionalism, as well as Christian grace in all she does." Jessica is married to husband, **Corey '01**, a planner for the City of Cleveland, and they have four children.

 **Brandon Barkley '04** has been named principal of Brentwood Middle School in Williamson County, Tennessee. He served as assistant principal for the past six years. Brandon began his teaching career in 2004 as an eighth-grade math teacher at Hillsboro School where he also coached girls soccer. In 2006, he began teaching math at Sunset Middle School. During his time there, he was named Sunset Middle School Teacher of the Year and served as the Math Department chair. Brandon holds a master's degree in educational leadership and a doctorate in leadership and professional practice from Trevecca Nazarene University.

**Shawn Scott '07** graduated in May from the evening MBA program at Emory University's Goizueta Business School. His graduation honors included Beta Gamma Sigma, Class Orator, Organization and Management Faculty Award, Who's Who Among Business Students, and the MBA Core Value Award for Diversity. Shawn will leave his post at Emory's Candler School of Theology in July and begin a global rotational leadership development program at Wipro Technologies.

2010s

**Sam '09** and **Kelsey Fink '10**, along with their two daughters, have moved from Ypsilanti, Mich. to St. Louis, Mo., where Sam will be working on his master of divinity at Concordia Seminary.

 **Tyler Alexander '11** was recently named as the Hendersonville (Tennessee) Christian Academy head football coach. He is a Georgia native and is expected to serve as both a high school and middle school educator at Hendersonville Christian, after previously serving as a teacher and assistant boys basketball coach at Trinity Christian School in Newnan, Ga. He and his wife, Selena, will also be part of the HCA staff.

**Annie Sandberg '14** was informed earlier this year that she has been awarded a 2015 National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Program fellowship. NSF chooses honorees based on, "demonstrated potential to contribute to strengthening the vitality of the U.S. science and engineering enterprise." The award is worth \$34,000 a year for up to three years. Annie, last year's recipient of the Charles Paul Conn Award, has begun work on a Ph.D. in materials science at Vanderbilt University, where she received a full scholarship, research assistantship, and bonus support.



Thank You

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Here are some facts that may surprise you.

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That means we have a large, young and vibrant alumni base.

Here's another one: If 1/3 of alumni – **like you** – support Lee with \$100 a year,  
we will generate more than \$1,000,000 annually.

You may not think \$8.34 a month would make a difference, but **together** we can produce  
serious support for **scholarships, classroom equipment, professors, and programs.**

This is a simple but powerful plan. We can give students the same life-changing experiences we had at Lee,  
but the plan only works with you.

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