

THE MAGAZINE OF LEE UNIVERSITY

TORCH

SUMMER 2017



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ON THE COVER:

The new Forum has already become a campus landmark at Lee University. (Photo by Randi Vasquez)

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FRUIT BASKET TURNOVER

In a more active summer than usual, faculty, staff, departments, and programs are finding new homes across campus.



OPENING THOUGHTS FROM PRESIDENT PAUL CONN

TRANSITIONS AND LANDMARKS

As we move past another spring commencement and into another summer, it's always a time for transitions and landmarks. This spring, we take special note of two important, although very different, such milestones: the graduation of our first Lee University nurses, and the passing of the Torch (as in, the magazine) after thirty years.

NURSING GRADS: The dream of a Lee University School of Nursing has been part of our institutional consciousness for almost forty years. In the early 1980's, Dr. Lois Beach and Dr. Bob O'Bannon, leaders of the Natural Sciences faculty, actively lobbied for such a program. It seemed a logical extension of an already excellent premed and pre dental

curriculum. In fact, Lee actually hired a Director of Nursing, who established an office and wrote proposals and academic plans for two years in the 1980's. When the time came to move forward, however, the overall financial condition of the school seemed too weak to support such an expensive startup, and all those dreams were put on hold.

When I appeared before the Tennessee Board of Nursing, twenty-five years later, to present our proposal to begin a program in 2014, that dream of Dr. Beach's was certainly on my mind. Now, in 2017, we have watched the first 17 Lee nursing graduates walk across a stage to get their BSN degrees. I know how many of you alums have looked forward to this day, and it will be exciting to see the dream unfold.

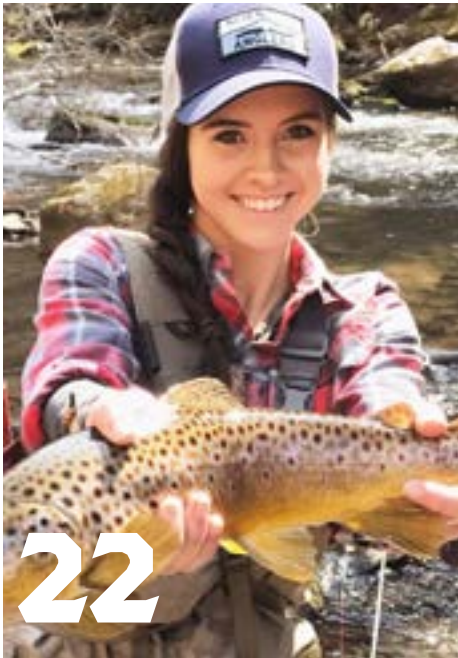
THE TORCH IS PASSED: A very different kind of transition is occurring with this issue of the Torch. Cameron Fisher, who has produced this magazine since its inception, says goodbye to that role this summer. I hope you will read his very interesting personal reflection on page 34. I don't know anyone who loves Lee more than Cameron does. He has not just observed, but actively recorded, its highs and lows, its best and worst moments since he was himself a student more than thirty years ago. He has served us all well as the keeper of the flame, and I am personally deeply grateful for his commitment and work all these years. His contribution to his alma mater, in the form of this "labor of love," has been enormous, and we all owe him our thanks.



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BUSINESS EARNS PROMOTION TO SCHOOL

By Dewayne Thompson
In a move approved by the Lee Board of Directors in May, the Department of Business will occupy their new space this fall as the School of Business. Read about the 50-year history of the School of Business at Lee.



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FLY FISHING FLYING HIGH

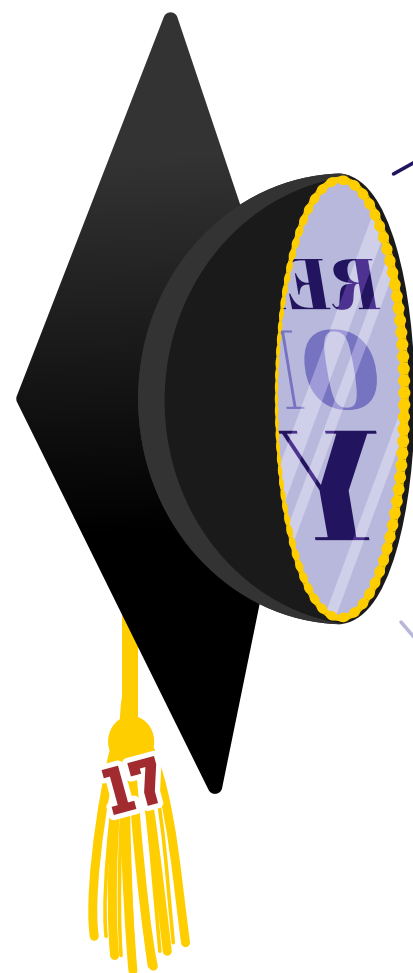
By Cameron Fisher
The emergence of this unique club sport has already garnered national recognition, including the recruitment of two of the top young anglers in the sport.



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WOMEN MAKE HISTORIC TOURNEY APPEARANCES

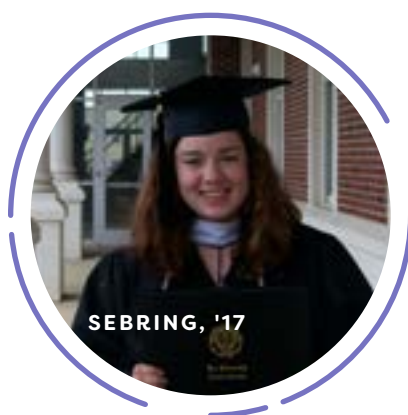
In just the second year of competition in NCAA Div. II, both the women's golf and softball teams advanced into championship play.



REFLECTIONS ON FOUR YEARS

*A newly minted Lee alumna
shares her thoughts on
graduation day.*

BY KIMBERLY SEBRING



As I stood outside Walker Arena dressed in my graduation regalia on the morning of Saturday, May 6, I gazed out at the trees and buildings on the Lee University campus. It just didn't seem possible that I was about to make the transition from an undergraduate to an alumna.

From the very back of line 4, I turned my attention to the lines of my fellow graduates as we prepared to march into our future lives as Lee alumni. I observed as some people mingled and laughed, while others stood with stony expressions and hands clasped tight. Though we were all similarly dressed, I recognized more than ever that our unique strengths and gifts would allow each one of us to give something to this world following graduation.

The night before, during commissioning, I had listened to six of my classmates as they shared how their experiences at Lee helped shape them into the people they are today. They spoke about how Lee has provided avenues of growth in faith, time management, trust, and leadership for them. However, one common theme I noted during their speeches was how Lee had become a home—a haven of sorts—for them during one of the most mentally and emotionally exhilarating times of their lives.

Despite all the imperfections, sleepless nights, anxiety, financial burdens, social challenges, and other obligations, Lee University has also become a home for me, not just during my past experience as a student, but also for my future as an alumna.

Perhaps the most important thing I've learned while at Lee was how to assess what I have been given, and how I can give back. Amy Hunley put it best during commissioning when she said that we should “walk into the future ready to serve others” and “lead with love, appreciation, and responsibility.”



Lee has taught me these things both in and out of the classroom, whether I was listening to a lecture, completing my service hours, or working as the news editor for the *Lee Clarion*.

Being a student at Lee for the past four years has not only helped me recognize my passion and talent for journalism, but has also challenged me to speak truth and serve others through everything I do and say—something that has become so scarce in the world today.

Sitting in Walker Arena during commencement was one of the most surreal experiences I've ever had. It was amazing to be surrounded by my classmates, friends, and family, but it finally struck me how fast the past four years have flown by. Memories of my college career flooded my mind as Paul Conn welcomed the audience. I started to question what I had done and felt anxious not knowing where I was going after college.

As Austin Peay State University President Alisa White presented the commencement address, I didn't think it could be more fitting: “Life presses in, and we are a society of multitaskers and overachievers; and we're overscheduled and overcommitted and, I submit over-Starbucked,” White said. “But I encourage you to make some room in your life. Leave space for the unexpected.”

I find it so ironic that in a society with so much technology to keep us connected and updated 24/7 that it often causes us to become disconnected with our surroundings, and sometimes our faith. White challenged us to “make room” for the important things in life following our departure from Lee, and explained how





“true success comes when we spend our lives pursuing objectives that are bigger than we are.”

She warned us that life will only get crazier from now on, and that we should make room to embrace loneliness, discomfort, and discontent. She also encouraged us to make room for people different from us, adventure, self-assessment, and God, among others.

By the time I walked across the stage to receive my diploma, I was more excited than nervous. Though I have learned much as a Lee student, I know I have much more to learn for the rest of my life as a Lee alumna.

I remembered Emily Dagnan’s speech during commissioning when she pointed to Philippians 4:11-12. She mentioned that we were about to start facing responsibilities of the real world, but that maintaining a positive outlook in life—remembering that God is faithful—can allow us to remain content in any circumstances.

As President Conn presented us as the class of 2017 and asked us to turn our tassels, I was overwhelmed with excitement and curiosity as I thought about where my life would go from that moment.

I walked out of Walker Arena with my fellow classmates, not knowing that in a



few hours I would receive incredible financial assistance from my family to help jumpstart paying my student loans. I also had no idea that in less than a week I would start as a freelance writer for the *Chattanooga Times Free Press*.

What I knew then and will remember for the rest of my life is that God has my future in His hands, and I will continue to trust Him, no matter what this life throws at me. I will strive to listen to God and use every opportunity to serve Him and my neighbors, no matter who they are or what they look like.

White said if we understand the “why” and the purpose for our lives, we can get through the “how.” I may not understand the finer details of why I got the amazing opportunity to graduate college, but I do understand that I’m here to glorify God, share His Word, love and serve His people, and rest in His peace.

In Matthew 6:31-34, Jesus said:

“So don’t worry, saying ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For the idolaters eagerly seek all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you. Therefore don’t worry about tomorrow, because tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own” (HCSB).

Those words have never rung more true than they do today, and my prayer is that I would live them out on my journey as a Lee University alumna.

Kimberly Sebring is from Apison, Tennessee, and graduated from Lee with a B.A. in Digital Media Studies, Journalism. She served as the news editor for the Lee Clarion from 2016–2017 and has accepted a freelance writer position with the Chattanooga Times Free Press.



LEE'S FIRST NURSING COHORT GRADUATES



Karina Hernandez

BY CHARITY PARRIS

During May graduation ceremonies, the first School of Nursing graduates received their Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing. The 17 nursing graduates were recognized during a pinning ceremony on the day preceding graduation.

On Friday, May 5, the School of Nursing honored its first cohort with a lapel pin signifying their accomplishments and an alabaster jar signifying their career ahead of pouring themselves out in service to others. This was particularly special for Dr. Sara Campbell, dean of the School of Nursing at Lee.

"The Christian nurse must be able to do all those things that any nurse should do, see patients as God sees them, and be able to demonstrate the love of Christ to all," said Campbell. "We have been told by our clinical partners that our students are different in a good way. Christian conduct may not always be distinctly different, but it is distinctly motivated."

During the pinning ceremony, Bryn Dawdy received the Senior Leadership Bound and Shining Light Awards, Megan Duttlinger was the recipient of the Senior Excellence Award, and the Choice Award was presented to Katherine Plate. Dawdy and Karina Hernandez were named Senior Dean Fellows.

Hernandez, senior class speaker, presented a speech expressing her excitement for what is to come in the program and for the nurses. Campbell and Jeannie Duff, lecturer in nursing at Lee, also shared their experiences with the program so far and hopes for the future.

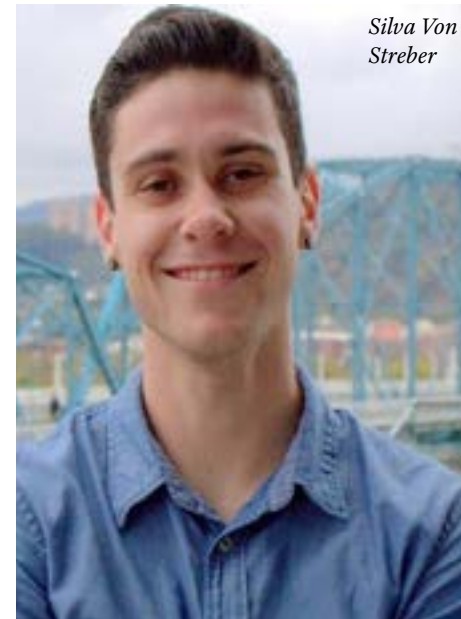
The nursing program has accomplished much throughout the last four years, including achieving approvals through the Tennessee Board of Nursing and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. The baccalaureate degree in nursing is also accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

The School of Nursing began accepting students in fall 2014, and each semester has resulted in a new set of courses, unfolding as the students move through the curriculum. The program has a traditional track for students earning a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, and offers two plans of study: one for beginning freshmen and one for transfer/change of major students.

The first group of graduates from Lee's School of Nursing include: Hailey Clark, Emily Dagnan, Bryn Dawdy, Megan Duttlinger, Kelsea Fletcher, Rachel Geraci, Lauren Harbison, Dorothy Hays, Karina Hernandez, Natasha Lewis, Kalie Manis, Kristen Moon, Katherine Plate, Lauren Smeltzer, Kayla Smith, Hayla Stone, and Mwajuma Teague.

Nursing grad Megan Duttlinger leads The International Council of Nurses' Pledge during the Friday afternoon pinning ceremony.

PHOTOS BY
RILEY MATILLA.



Silva Von Streber



Johnson



McBeath

JOHNSON, MCBEATH, SILVA VON STREBER WIN TOP STUDENT AWARDS

CHARLES PAUL CONN AWARD

Established in 1996, this award is given to the senior who shows the greatest promise of intellectual and academic achievement beyond the undergraduate level. It is named in honor of the sixteenth president of Lee whose tenure began in 1986.

Guilherme Silva von Streber graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and a TESOL minor. Guilherme has earned the Honors Scholarship, Crosby Scholarship, and John Nichols Scholarship. He has served as a teaching assistant for multiple professors, worked in the Language and Literature Department, and was the student coordinator for the Spanish Language Café, the Spanish Writing Center, and the Tutoring Center. Guilherme is a member of Sigma Delta Pi (Spanish Honor Society), the Leetinos, Diversity Club, Cross Over Ministries, and Ekklesia. He will be attending Emory University to pursue a Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Hispanic Studies.

F.J. LEE AWARD

Established in 1968, this award is named in honor of the second president of Lee, who served from 1922–1923. This award is given to the senior with the overall most outstanding record of student achievement.

Indyasia Marquesha Johnson graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree as a double major in Biochemistry and Chemistry Education. Indy is a Presidential Scholar and a Gates Millennial Scholar. She worked with Student Development, A-Force, and the Leonard Center while also serving on the Diversity Council and as a peer leader. Indy spent this past semester studying abroad as part of Lee University Semester in the U.K. program. After graduation, Indy will teach science at Wesleyan School in Atlanta with plans to attend Emory University to pursue a Master of Public Health degree.

ZENO C. THARP AWARD

Established in 1955, this award is given to the senior who shows the greatest promise of making a significant contribution to the church. It is named in honor of the sixth president of Lee, who served from 1935–1944.

Dalton Tanner McBeath graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree as a double major in Theological Studies and TESOL. Dalton is a Presidential Scholar, a Poieima Scholar, and a member of the TESOL Honor Society, Phi Sigma Iota. Dalton was a four-year member of Campus Choir, a Residential Life Floor Leader, worked in the Office of the Assistant Dean in the School of Religion and in the Lee University English Language Center. Dalton was the cofounder and president of Mu Kappa, an international fraternity for missionary kids. Dalton will be attending Regent University in the fall in pursuit of a Master of Divinity degree.



SUMMER OF SHIFT

New construction and new programs make for new homes for many.

Between spring graduation and the first day of fall semester, the amount of activity taking place at Lee has become traditionally epic. This summer the addition of new buildings, the vacating of old ones, and the addition of a federal grant program, is creating an extra level of buzz for the contractors and Lee’s Physical Plant crew.

\$4 MILLION IN DINING IMPROVEMENTS

Since March, the Deacon Jones Dining Hall has been fenced off from regular service as renovations are being made to completely change Lee University’s approach to food service. Among the additions to come are new food platforms, more “made-to-order” stations, and an outdoor hangout with fire pit and pizza oven. The first week of May, new doors were being installed and a new patio was being poured.

The estimated cost of the project is \$4 million, according to Vice President of Business and Finance Chris Conine. Lee’s food service partner for years, Sodexo, is providing a \$2 million gift while the university will “raise the remaining monies needed to complete the dining

hall renovations,” says Conine. Ryzec Building Group, LLC, a construction firm from Franklin, Tennessee, is serving as the contractor for the project, the same company that renovated Lee’s retail dining venues in 2011, including Chick-fil-A, Subway®, Einstein Bros®, and Dunkin’ Donuts.

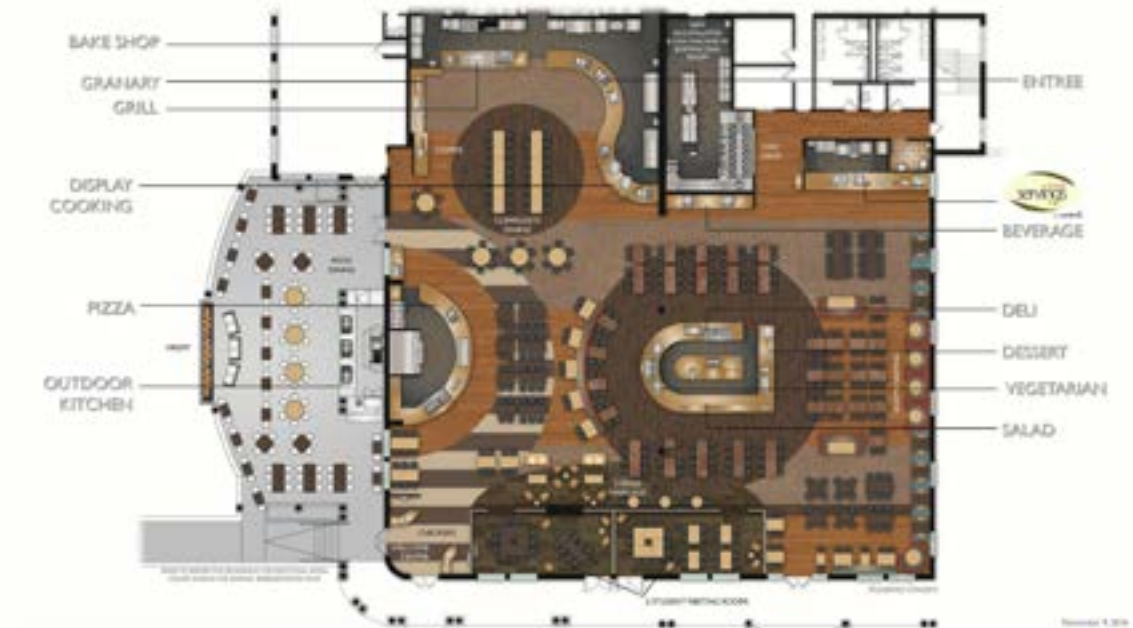
“We were very impressed with their responsiveness, quality, and performance,” Conine continued. “We know how important the dining hall is to the overall sense of community on our campus. Our goal is to create an inviting gathering place in which students, faculty, and staff can engage.”

The renovations are set to be complete in time for the opening of classes this fall.

Workers busy themselves on multiple projects of the interior



The future outdoor fire pit and dining veranda



Architect’s rendering of the outdoor pizza oven and dining veranda

NEW HOUSING ON THE SOUTH SIDE

In a decision made since the last issue of *Torch*, a new apartment-style women’s residence is being constructed on the south side property, which a year ago was occupied by dilapidated homes.

The 11-unit set of townhomes will house 44 female students and mimic the style of the nearby Livingston East townhomes at the corner of Trunk and 8th Streets. The location of the townhomes will be along Walker Street and will face the green space created last summer when seven houses were razed along with a portion of Trunk Street.

In a decision approved by the Lee Board of Directors in May, the new housing units will be named for the professorial duo of Carolyn and Murl Dirksen, who have been teaching at Lee for 49 and 46 years respectively.



As of early June, the first and second floors, as well as the roof, were in place.

FORUM NEARING COMPLETION

The long-anticipated Lee Forum is nearing completion as the details of the unique tower structure are being finalized over the summer. With a groundbreaking last summer, the project has taken a bit longer than usual because of its unique and hand-detailed architecture, delicate construction process, and the stretching of a construction crew.

Through its construction, however, it has been functioning in stages and has been a focus of

campus events, all the way back to Homecoming last November when it was the backdrop for an evening block party. The clock faces are now in place and working, as are the nine bells.

For the past three years, student groups have been hard at work raising funds to contribute to The Forum. The latest to report a successful campaign was the women’s group Delta Zeta Tau, who exceeded their goal of \$50,000 through a day-long pitch to alumni on April 22.



SCHOOL OF BUSINESS INTERIOR TAKING SHAPE

The lobby of the future School of Business building will boast a view of the School of Nursing and The Forum.

The tedious process of converting the former church educational wing into a first-rate academic space for the new School of Business is progressing. Walls outlining faculty offices and classrooms are nearly complete and work continues on common space. Much of the construction of the past year has involved the delicate deconstruction of the interior, attempting to preserve the primary infrastructure. Crews are now running wire, plumbing, and specialized connections for real-world Wall Street instruction (see School of Business feature this issue.)



The Paul Conn Student Union will be the location of the new Student Success Center.

DEPARTMENT DOMINOES

With the Department of Business preparing to enter their new home as the School of Business in the former First Baptist Church education building, their former home for decades, Walker Memorial, will be repurposed. While all decisions have yet to be made, the primary tenant set to occupy the three-story Walker Memorial classroom building appears to be the Language and Literature Department. The move will afford L&L much more space than their current home in the adjacent Vest Building, although the department will still maintain some space in Vest.

The last issue of *Torch* reported the move of the Business Office (administrative) from the Higginbotham Administration Building to Dixon Center. Their former space has been filled by the Registrar's Office. Set to move this summer, once Language and Literature vacates Vest, will be the office of Vice President and Academic Dean Dr. Deborah Murray,

now occupying a portion of the Centenary Wing of Higginbotham.

Also reported in the last issue of *Torch* was the awarding of a \$2 million Title III grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The implementation of the grant this summer will cause its own series of office dominoes to fall. According to Director of Academic Services Erin Looney, The Hub, Lee University's Student Success Center, "will integrate key services to provide the holistic support students need to achieve their academic, personal, and professional goals."

The Hub will be located at the Paul Conn Student Union; therefore, Academic Services, the Center for Calling and Career, First-Year Programs, and the new Student Success staff will all move from their current offices across campus to the third floor of the PCSU. The three full-time success coaches and a coordinator of Learning Support, which will be hired later this year,

will move into the offices on the first floor of the PCSU. Looney says, "We are excited to be in a place where students already are, because we want the Hub to be for everyone."

Key services available at the Hub will be: Academic Planning, Transitioning to College and First-Year Experience, Developmental Advising, Learning Support and Tutoring, Calling Exploration and Career Preparation, Transfer Student Engagement, Success Coaching and Mentoring, and Early Interventions for Success.

The Writing Center, Writing Lab, and a Language and Literature faculty office will move to the basement of the Watkins Building where the Center for Calling and Career are currently located.

The Residential Life and Housing staff will move to the Centenary wing of the Administration building, where First-Year Programs, Academic Services, and the temporary Student Success offices are currently located.

STRONG NAMED VP OF OPERATIONS

During the May meeting of the Lee University Board of Directors, the board approved the creation of a new administrative sector of the university—Operations. Previously, Assistant Vice President for Operations, **COLE STRONG**, was appointed to lead the new sector as Vice President of Operations.

Strong will join the seven other vice presidents as part of President Conn's cabinet. Strong will supervise the university staff and functions of Facilities Management and Event Planning, and will continue to be the university liaison for new construction projects. Strong began as an assistant in the President's Office and rose to be the liaison for several recent construction projects, including the Science and Math Complex, Communications and the Arts Building, School of Nursing, and the repurposing of the former First Baptist Church campus.



Strong

PRICE, SANDERS AND KAMM RECEIVE CWC AWARD

At a recent Lee University chapel service, students **CODY PRICE** and **ELISABETH SANDERS** were presented with the 2017 Dr. Charles W. Conn Servant Leadership Award, and **DR. WILLIAM KAMM**, director of graduate studies in education, received the Dr. Charles W. Conn Service Learning Faculty Award.

The Servant Leadership scholarship 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.

As part of Lee's efforts to emphasize the importance of serving others, the award is given annually to rising seniors who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to service during their time at Lee. Students who receive this scholarship give a portion of the proceeds to a charity of their choice.

Price has been a student worker for the Admissions Office and a member of the A-Force team, which provides campus tours. He has also served in three offices in Tau Kappa Omega, been president of Backyard Ministries, and was a research assistant for the Sociology program.

Sanders came to Lee as a Poimea Scholar, beginning her time of service in the Leonard Center. She stayed there as an intern and has been involved in a number of service

initiatives like Backyard Ministries, Lee's Campus Kitchen, and the Noble Cause grant program for service leadership development. Sanders was also instrumental in helping local school teachers develop service-learning opportunities for K-12 students.

Kamm mentors numerous students and staff members, serves as the team mentor for the men's soccer team, has fought in Dorm Wars alongside the men of Medlin Hall, sponsors Big Pal Little Pal, and serves on the Board of Directors for the Tennessee Rural Education Association.



L-R: William Lamb, Elisabeth Sanders, Cody Price, President Conn, William Kamm, Jimmy Harper.

Pictured here (left to right) are Micaeleah Parker, assistant director of recruitment at Lee; Hope Jones; Jodi Hagan; Hannah Wiggonton; Rebecca Cantrell; Mackenzie Speakman; Michael Knotts; Rachel Stock; and Darren Echols, director of Admissions at Lee.



LEE DAY SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Lee University recently hosted Lee Day 2017, an annual 30-hour event geared toward prospective students and their families. To wrap up the Lee Day festivities on April 8, seven students were awarded scholarships from the annual scholarship drawing. **RACHEL STOCK** from Knoxville, Tennessee, received a \$5000 scholarship. **HOPE JONES**, also from Knoxville, received a \$3660 scholarship. **REBECCA LYNN CANTRELL**, of Pinson Fork, Kentucky; **MICHAEL KNOTS**, of Chattanooga, Tennessee; **MACKENZIE SPEAKMAN**, of Carroll, Ohio; all received a \$3000 scholarship. Two transfer students, **JODI HAGAN**, of Utica, Kentucky; and **HANNAH WIGGONTON**, of Callaway, Virginia; also received a \$3000 scholarship.

CHARLOTTE CENTER TO MERGE WITH DAL

Lee University is merging its Charlotte, North Carolina, branch campus into its online format, according to an announcement by Lee president Dr. Paul Conn and Dr. Ken Bell, administrative bishop of the Church of God in Western North Carolina.

The transition, which will be complete on July 1, will mean that on-site classes will no longer be taught at the branch campus known as the Charlotte Center. The students who are pursuing degrees at that site are being offered special advising to complete their work online through the Lee University Division of Adult Learning.

The decision to merge the Charlotte school into the main Lee operation was made by the Lee University Board of Directors

in May, following a resolution of support from the Western North Carolina State Council.

Charlotte Center was established in 1999 as a Lee branch campus, in partnership with the Church of God in that region. It was licensed by the state of North Carolina to offer religious instruction only and operated as a ministerial training center. At its peak, the center served 150 students per semester, who drove into Charlotte for classes from surrounding communities. In recent years, according to Conn and Bell, the demand for online classes has grown, and many Charlotte Center students now prefer courses in that format, which come from Lee's main campus.

"We are in a rapidly evolving educational environment," Conn said, "and I applaud the vision of the leaders in Western North Carolina for their willingness to change with the times in delivering college courses." According to Bell, "the ministers here in this area have always wanted access to accredited college-level training in theology and ministerial studies. That hasn't changed over many years, and this new development simply changes the way Lee University helps provide that service."



MARK YOUR Calendar!

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3

EVS Family Reunion Reception
'Trip Down Memory Lane' EVS Fashion Show!
Rehearsal Time!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Homecoming Music Festival EVS 50th Anniversary Reunion Choir

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Morning Worship in the Chapel
EVS 50th Anniversary Reunion Choir Live Recording

If you have ever been part of the dynamic legacy of the Lee University Evangelistic Singers "EVS," please make plans to make your way back home!!

WE'RE LOOKING FOR YOU!

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

EVS Alumni Facebook Page, or

GLORIA SCOTT-RICHMOND, Director:
423.614.8238 | grichmond@leeuniversity.edu, or

ANGEL JOHNSON, EVS Alumni Coordinator:
ajohns25@leeu.edu

WOMACK RECEIVES 2017 RAHAMUT AWARD

Pam Womack was recently awarded the 2017 Janet Rahamut Award, given in recognition to the faculty member that exhibits the most heart for students evidenced by frequent interaction and positive involvement with them outside the classroom.

The award is named in memory of Dr. Janet Rahamut, an English professor whose tragic death in 2000 shocked the campus and left a tremendous void in the collective heart of the Lee family. The award was created to honor Rahamut's dedication

to her students, in and out of the classroom.

Womack, a senior lecturer for physical education, joined the Lee faculty in 2011. During her time at Lee, Womack has found opportunities for her students to get hands-on experience in the field of education. She is committed

to investing in her students outside the classroom as well, offering study sessions in her home for students, along with inviting them to join her for meals.

Dr. Mike Iosia, chair of Lee's Department of Health, Exercise Science & Secondary Education Department said, "Pam cares deeply about her students, is committed to their success, and she shows it to them daily."

Womack was presented the award during a chapel service in April.

Womack



—Naudia O'Steen



EXCELLENCE AWARDS BESTOWED AT COMMENCEMENT

Coats

West

Wickam



EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING: DR. JOHN COATS

Nothing is valued more highly at Lee than good teaching. The oldest and highest faculty award is one given for excellence in teaching. For the past forty-five years, this award winner has been selected by an anonymous committee of three faculty and three graduating seniors, each representing a different academic department.

The winner of the award this year is **DR. JOHN COATS**, professor of History. A native of Texas, Dr. Coats earned the Ph.D. in history from Texas A & M. He taught for seven years on the faculty of Quincy College in Illinois, where he also won their award for Excellence in Teaching, before moving to Tennessee to join the Lee faculty in 2006.

President Conn says: "Anytime one talks with random groups of students about who are the best teachers on the Lee campus, the name John Coats almost always comes up. He has a gift for introducing the pleasures of history to nonmajors who enroll in his classes with the vague idea that history of not very pleasurable. He turns students on to history. And then in the upper-level courses in his specialty of American History, he teaches brilliantly. In his student reviews, phrases like 'best teacher I've ever had' pops up very often. Other phrases include, 'he is accessible'; 'he takes time for me'; 'he is a kind person'; 'he is always available to us.' These are not my observations, but the observations of his students, consistently, over the dozen years he has been at Lee."



EXCELLENCE IN SCHOLARSHIP: DR. LORI WEST

The Lee faculty annually recognizes one of its members for exceptional accomplishment in scholarship. This year, the faculty honored **DR. LORI WEST**, associate professor of Biology, with the award, based on her consistent track record of research, usually including Lee students, which she maintains alongside a busy teaching schedule. Dr. West came to Lee from the faculty of Maryville College eleven years ago, after earning a Ph.D. in biochemistry at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, and a postdoctorate at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

President Conn says: "Lori is one of the leaders on the Lee faculty in creating opportunities for her students to collaborate with her, and she coaches them as they begin their own research careers and prepare for graduate school. She has been particularly adept at developing winning grant proposals, and is one of Lee's most successful grant-getters to support the research of her students, as well as promoting biological research and awareness in the K-12 schools in our region. On a campus known for great teaching, Dr. West is regarded as one of the best in the classroom. But it's for her work in the research lab that she is honored as the winner of the 2017 Excellence in Scholarship Award."



EXCELLENCE IN ADVISING: DR. MARK WICKAM

Each year a special committee selects a faculty member who provides outstanding service to students as an advisor. This committee bases its award on student advisor evaluations for the past three years, and this year the unanimous winner is **DR. MARK WICKAM**.

Dr. Wickam is completing his thirtieth year on the Lee faculty. He is a professor of Health and Exercise Science, and in addition to his advising of students in that department, he serves as the Faculty Athletic representative, in which role he is the backup advisor for almost three hundred athletes as they work to meet the NCAA standards of eligibility.

President Conn says: "A good faculty advisor must constantly combine a skill at creative problem-solving with a firm application of academic standards and requirements, and do all that with a spirit of genuine kindness, and all of that describes this year's winner of the Excellence in Advising Award, Dr. Mark Wickam."

THE LEE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MEETING THE FIRST WEEK OF MAY 2017, APPROVED THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEE UNIVERSITY FACULTY:

PROMOTION TO DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR:

PHILLIP THOMAS, 1977
Ph.D., University of Cincinnati
+ Professor of Music

PROMOTION TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR:

RICHARD ALBRIGHT, 2011
Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University
+ Associate Professor of Psychology

DAN BUCK, 2010
MFA, Baylor University
+ Associate Professor of Theater

MATTHEW FISHER, 2011
MFA, Savannah College of Art and Design
+ Associate Professor of Communication

ANDREW HARNBERGER, 2012
DMA, Eastman School of Music
+ Associate Professor of Percussion

MARY MATHIAS-DICKERSON, 2011
MFA, Bradley University
+ Associate Professor of Art

BRIAN PETERSON, 2011
Ph.D., Wycliffe College at the University of Toronto
+ Associate Professor of Old Testament

MARK PROCTOR, 2009
Ph.D., Baylor University
+ Associate Professor of New Testament

RANDY SHEEKS, 2010
DMA, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
+ Associate Professor of Music

ARLIE TAGAYUNA, 2011
Ph.D., University of Hawaii - Manoa
+ Associate Professor of Sociology

JOHN WYKOFF, 2011
Ph.D., City University of New York
+ Associate Professor of Music Theory and Composition

PROMOTION TO PROFESSOR:

SHANE GRIFFITH, 2003
DBA, Nova Southeastern University
+ Professor of Business

HERMILO JASSO, 1987
Ph.D., Universidad De La Empresa, Uruguay
+ Professor of Business

BRAD MOFFETT, 2006
DWS, Institute for Worship Studies
+ Professor of Music

SARAH ORTEGA HIGGS, 2005
Ph.D., University of Puerto Rico
+ Professor of French and Spanish

OTHER FACULTY PROMOTIONS:

DR. DEWAYNE THOMPSON was named dean of the Lee University School of Business, while **DR. SHANE GRIFFITH** was named associate dean.

DR. WILLIAM LAMB was given faculty status. He is now director of the Leonard Center and assistant professor of Leadership Studies.

DR. JEFF SALTER now holds the title Director of Media and Marketing.

Three faculty members were appointed assistant chairs of their departments:

DR. DONNA SUMMERLIN
+ Dept. of Language and Literature

DR. ROBERT WEST
+ Dept. of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

DR. BLAYNE CARROLL
+ Dept. of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

TAZ KICKLIGHTER was appointed director of the Athletic Training Program

LORI MATTACE was named assistant director of Library Services

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS TRANSITIONS TO:



By Dewayne Thompson, Dean, School of Business

The Department of Business transitions to a School of Business, effective July 1, 2017. This is the announcement made by President Paul Conn in the faculty meeting on May 8, 2017.

Clearly, the departmental faculty are excited and ready to move forward as a separate school, and we are no less committed to long-standing core values shared since the beginning of business courses at Bible Training School (BTS).

The Business program at BTS (Lee) was second to religion as a recognized program; however, allow me to share a bit of context. The Department of Business didn't begin until 1966 when Dr. Donald Rowe came as the department chair. He stayed for 18 years with a brief period juxtaposed with service by Dr. Al Hartgraves and Dr. G.A. Swanson. Dr. Evaline Echols followed and led the department for the next 20 years. These are the shoulders of giants our current faculty stand upon, as we become a School of Business. (NOTE: For additional historical context, read the brief sketch following this article with details offered by Louis Morgan, director of Lee University's Squires Library.)

In the beginning, the Commercial Department of BTS offered five courses: bookkeeping, shorthand, typing, commercial

arithmetic, and business English. Today, degrees are offered in accounting, business administration, business education, corporate training, information systems, and healthcare administration. Not being comfortable with the status quo, we continuously revise and improve our curriculum to prepare our students for excellence in the marketplace. Additionally, we service the Human Development emphasis from the Helen DeVos College of Education, music business majors from the School of Music, PR and advertising majors in the Department of Communications, and a focus in the interdisciplinary major for the Department of Language and Literature.

While there will be some changes as we transition to the School of Business, this is an enduring guiding principle: Business with a Purpose. Today, the language may be a bit different, but the core of understanding the importance of integrating one's faith with a professional career is emphasized as much in the contemporary classroom as in the legacy classroom.

Dr. Donald Rowe, shown here in 1968, two years after he became the first chairman of the Department of Business



The new home of the School of Business



Consider this quote from 2012 alum, Zachary Gureasko, who graduated on May 6 with his law degree:

“ *I would sincerely like to thank the faculty in the Lee University Department of Business for their personal investment in my education. Not only did I feel adequately prepared for the work academically, but also spiritually and ethically. The interplay between the legal profession and our faith as Christians can be complex and, at times, in conflict. I was able to use the skills I developed at Lee to work through some of the ethical dilemmas that have been (and undoubtedly will continue to be) presented to me. I am honored to have the privilege to represent my alma mater as I continue to strive for excellence in all I do, putting His name first.* **”**

When Lee University restructured into schools and colleges over twenty years ago, the Department of Business became a department in the College of Arts and Sciences. While a professional program with different needs, assumptions, and pedagogies is somewhat different from the typical liberal arts major, the department fared well under the leadership of Dean Carolyn Dirksen and Dean Matthew Melton. Liberal arts disciplines prepare students for different career paths than do professional disciplines, such as business and accounting. Professional disciplines are career-oriented with the assumption of commencing one's career upon graduating from the undergraduate program.

The Department of Business particularly emphasizes learning at the application level, as evidenced by a ten-year focus on experiential learning—learning by doing. I would offer as evidence students working under the direction of Dr. Guy DeLoach who generated a \$10 million savings at a local company over a five- to six-year time frame. Another example is the establishment of a working farm initiative in Cambodia in cooperation with People for Care and Learning. Our students research companies, experience internships, participate in simulations, work

in teams, and conduct presentations frequently. This perhaps differs from the typical liberal arts programs.

Our future location on the south end of campus will support our pedagogy and our needs especially well. For example, students will have access to a Wall Street ticker and view the market's performance on an almost real-time basis. The space compliments our pedagogy and philosophy as a School of Business.

We endorse fully the mission of Lee University and consider Ephesians 2:10 as a guiding scripture. Additionally, our mission statement, written across each meeting agenda, states, “We exist to create opportunities for our students now and in the future,” will not change. We continue to be sold out to our students and their educational, personal, and career success.

THE COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT: ROOTS OF THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Content adapted from Director Louis Morgan, Squires Library.

The phrase “the first program added to the curriculum other than ministerial preparation” references the Business program in the early days of Bible Training School. Non-ministerial training courses were added in 1925 (seven years after the founding of BTS), but that emphasis wasn't viewed as a separate program like the commercial courses were viewed. The catalog first uses the word “department” as a designation for the music courses in 1931—the year after the commercial courses began. Some Lee histories do refer to it as the “Commercial Department.” This would suggest the formal Commercial program was added in 1930 and the formal Music program added in 1931.

The Commercial program was initiated during the first term of superintendent J.H. Walker's administration in 1930, but much credit is due to Henrietta Ayres [Green] for the beginning of the Commercial program.

In an early history of Lee, Bobby Johnson wrote: “Miss Ayrs [sic] was employed as a bookkeeper for the Cherokee Hotel in Cleveland. While working at the job, she conducted her own private business school at night in a vacant room in the hotel. Her duties at the hotel were few, and when (superintendent) Walker spoke to her about teaching commercial courses at the Bible Training School, she immediately accepted. The school had no equipment with which to begin this department.”

Henrietta Ayres Green later reflected, “The Bible Training School didn't have any typewriters, so I had to carry five of mine from my school at the hotel to the Bible Training School and then back to the hotel every day.”



Mason Sims shows off his latest catch.

FLY FISHING

MAKING  MORE

THAN JUST RIPPLES

BY CAMERON FISHER

When naming an unorthodox collegiate sport offered for college credit, most people generally think of bowling, badminton, or perhaps cricket, or croquet. But in just three years, fly-fishing at Lee University has grown from a beginner class to a nationally recognized, award-winning club sport.

The Lee University Anglers (LUA) was established in the spring of 2014, and by that fall, the club was hosting the American Casting Association (ACA) World Championships. Before the end of the year, LUA became a member of ACA and a charter club with International Federation of Fly Fishing (IFFF).

Since the inception of the course in 2014, enrollment in the program has reached maximum capacity every semester. More than 120 students have been part of the academic class and club in addition to the involvement of high school and middle school students.

In 2015, the beginner classes added an entomology unit, taught by world-renowned environmental biologist and Lee professor, Dr. Michael Freake. Two other program instructors achieved the level of Master Certified Instructor (MCI) and another as certified instructor.

According to Kevin Hudson, director of Intramurals at Lee and an integral part of the program, there are only 140 active MCIs currently in the world—and Lee has two of them. These program instructors receive pro-staff status from 17 major industry sponsors, including Patagonia, Orvis, and Sage.

Also in 2015, the Lee fly-fishing program began sponsoring middle school and high school camps. A grant was received from IFFF to research teaching methods for fly fishing, and more than 60 high school students participated in the study.

By the fall of last year, research was completed and published in an international journal, establishing Lee as a major research institute for the sport.

In 2016, Lee began collegiate competition with major universities, including the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, Auburn, Clemson, Western Carolina, Penn State, and others. Lee also began working alongside other universities to develop the NCAFF (National Collegiate Association of Fly Fishing), which will serve as a governing body for collegiate competitions.

The Lee University Anglers head out.



In the spring of last year, an intermediate fly-fishing class was launched to accommodate students interested in competing and advancing their skill and knowledge in the sport.

So far this year, Lee has recruited some top talent in the fly-fishing world. Noland Glenn from Canton, Ga., joins Mason Sims from Chickamauga, Ga., as former USA Youth Fly-Fishing Team members on the Lee roster. Glenn is a fly-fishing guide for Alpharetta Outfitters and helps manage Fellowship of Christian Athletes tournaments, and he is pro staff for Cortland Rod Company.

The other Lee newcomer is Cassie Spurling of Murphy, N.C., who has been fly fishing since she was 6 years old and recently was featured in a Blue Ridge Outdoors story as one of the six most influential women in the sport. Spurling is pro staff with Scott Fly Rods and Orvis, plus other companies, and she began working as a guide for Blue Ridge (Ga.) Fly Fishing in 2014.

Cassie is a freshman and is the great-great-great granddaughter of R.G. Spurling, the pioneer minister widely recognized as the founder of the Church of God denomination back in 1886.

“I am super thankful to be here and for the people who got me here,” Spurling said at a recent scholarship signing celebration Lee held for her and Glenn. “I’m excited for what is to come.”

Glenn came later to the sport, and he credits Sims for fueling his interest and ability for international success. They met at an FCA tournament when Sims was already a Team USA member.

“Mason took me under his wing and taught me everything he knew about fly fishing,” Glenn said. “He showed me what competition fishing was, and it just exploded after that. I spent two entire summers fishing with him in the water.” He joined Sims on Team USA in the summer of 2015.

Dr. Guy DeLoach, an associate professor of Business at Lee, who moonlights as a fly-fishing coach at Lee said, “We are excited about Noland and Cassie joining our team. They will enable us to lead nationally in collegiate competition fly fishing and continue our position as one of the top educational programs in the country.”

Also this year, Lee has partnered with “Trail Ministries” for discipleship and leadership training of college students. Chachi Averit has been added as an assistant coach. Lee has been accepted as a Trout Unlimited “5 Rivers Club” as part of the collegiate division, and Winston Rods—one of the oldest and most prestigious fly-fishing rod manufacturers in the world—has signed on to sponsor the team.

The team displays their hardware from the 2017 Casting for Hope Tournament



In tournament play, LUA is undefeated in team formats for both 2016 and spring 2017. They have taken first place in the prestigious Casting for Hope Tournament—helping to raise thousands of dollars for fighting cancer. They have also participated as lead guides in a fundraiser that realized almost \$100k for Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Currently, many industry sources and magazines are touting Lee’s program as the leading collegiate program in the country. This is due not only to the success of the team, but the program’s academic strength and commitment to growing the sport. Future endeavors include: expanding the competition to the western states, developing a conservation and ecotourism in Cuba, and developing a certified guide and instructor course.



Lee students practice techniques in class.



Fly fishing recruit Cassie Spurling



RECIPROCITY, THEORIES, BUDDIES, & JUST FRIENDS

BY WILLIAM LAMB



JESS AND ANNA

Lee Buddies Jessica McFarland and Anna Wood.

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be accepted just as you are? To not be judged, ignored, or cast aside by another person's preferences or prejudices? This is exactly what happens each week when Lee University volunteers meet with their "Best Buddies" through a university service club reaching out to high-functioning adults with intellectual disabilities.

Unfortunately, after high school, many adults with intellectual disabilities struggle to find their place in society, and the

Lee Best Buddies Club (a university chapter of the National Recognized Best Buddies organization) is instrumental in helping students from the local Trousdale School enjoy the power of friendship. According to Lee

volunteer, Anna Wood, "the club is about cultivating relationships with the buddies, helping them feel like they have a place to belong." Courtney Blackwell recounts the variety of events she has shared with her buddies through talent shows, game nights, and making memories together. She continued to express that the "club has been life-changing for me, and has given me a physical representation of Christ's love for His followers."

Perhaps one of the most powerful student responses was from Bryn Cole, club president:

THE ESSENCE OF BEST BUDDIES IS UNCONDITIONAL LOVE. THE TROUSDALE STUDENTS OR THE "BUDDIES" ACCEPT YOU EXACTLY AS YOU ARE. THEY DON'T HAVE ANY PREJUDICES. YOU DON'T HAVE TO PUT ON A MASK OR EVER FEEL THE PRESSURE TO BE THAT CERTAIN PERSON YOU THINK YOU SHOULD BE. BECAUSE OF THE UNCONDITIONAL LOVE THEY HAVE, THEY (TROUSDALE STUDENTS) ACCEPT YOU FOR WHERE YOU ARE IN LIFE.

While learning the wisdom and applied theories of their university disciplines, Lee students are participating in a tangible expression of the Great Commandment (loving God and loving people) through longevity-based service to neighbors in need. This reciprocal relationship is easiest explained by Wood: "The buddies love without restrictions and teach me how to enjoy the small things in life. Jess, my buddy, is the sweetest, most loving, person I know. I'm thankful for her."



LEE STUDENTS BEST BUDDIES AT CLUB LEE EVENT.

(L-to-R) Amber Patterson, Bryn Cole, Anna Wood, Heather Collins

RUNNING WOMEN TAKE CONFERENCE CROWN

For the first time in program history, the Lee University Women's Track and Field team won the Gulf South Conference Championship. The Lady Flames recorded 10 gold medal performances and had 31 top-eight finishes to win the team title by 34 points. The Flames placed 18 in the top eight of their events, including five gold medals, to finish in third as a team.

JESSICA CHILDERS was named the Most Outstanding Track Performer and Most Outstanding Overall Performer. The senior was first in the 1500-meter and 5000-meter runs. She was also second in the 3000-meter steeplechase and third in the 800-meter run.

CAMILLA SIMS earned Most Outstanding Freshman and Most Outstanding Field Performer after winning the shot put and discus throw.

Childers and Sims also swept the yearly GSC awards. Childers earned Women's Track and Field Athlete of the Year honors, while Sims was the GSC Freshman of the Year and Field Athlete of the Year. Head coach CALEB MORGAN was selected as the Women's Coach of the Year.

Seven Lady Flames earned GSC First Team All-Conference honors by placing first in their individual event. Receiving the mentions were: JORDAN ALLISON (heptathlon), Sims (shot put and discus), AUDREY SMITH (3000-meter steeplechase), Childers

(1500-meter and 5000-meter), NICOLETTE GORDON (pole vault), ADRIAN MARTIN (100-meter and 200-meter) and CAYCE BRYAN (800-meter). Earning Second Team All-Conference were Smith (10000-meter and 5000-meter) and Childers (3000-meter steeplechase).

For the men, CHRISTIAN NOBLE earned recognition as Men's Track and Field Freshman of the Year. He shared it with two others in a three-way tie for the award.

JOSIAH BROOKS (triple jump), Christian Noble (3000-meter steeplechase and 5000-meter), HAROLD SMITH (1500-meter), and JUSTIN BROOKS (400-meter) earned GSC First Team All-Conference recognition. Smith (800-meter) and SETH EAGLESON (5000-meter) made the Second Team All-Conference list.

The two teams combined to amass 11 NCAA Division II provisional qualifying times from seven different athletes. Josiah Brooks led the way by hitting the standards in three events (100-meter, 200-meter and triple jump). Martin and Justin Brooks met the marks in two events with Martin doing it in the 100- and 200-meter dashes, while Brooks hit the provisional times in the 200- and 400-meter events.

Bryan and Harold Smith qualified at the 800-meter distance. Audrey Smith and Noble were qualifiers in the 3000-meter steeplechase.



2017 Gulf South Conference Track Champions

MEN'S GOLF PLACES IN REGIONAL

The Lee men's golf team wrapped up the 2016–2017 season by taking part in the NCAA South/Southeast Region Championship.

The Flames earned the right to take part in the NCAA Regional with a second-place finish in the Gulf South Conference Tournament held at Callaway Gardens Course. Lee—ranked No. 8 in the final national Golfstat standings—was well-represented, with four players receiving recognition as the Gulf South Conference announced its postseason honors.

Senior **SHEA SYLVESTER** and sophomore **MATT JOHNSON** were named first team all-conference. Both players were also selected to the GSC All-Tournament after top-five performances during the championship. It was Sylvester's second straight all-conference honor.

"A couple of great careers ended for us at the NCAA Regional," Lee head golf coach, **JOHN MAUPIN**, said. "This program owes a great deal of gratitude to Shea Sylvester and **ADAM WRIGHT**. They have taken the program to new heights and been major contributors on the course the last four years."



WOMEN GOLFERS EARN BEST NCAA POSTSEASON FINISH

The Lee women's golf team joined the softball team in making deep historic runs in only their second year of competition against NCAA Division II programs.

The golfing Lady Flames placed seventh at the championship, which was held at the Findlay Country Club in Findlay, Ohio, May 17–20 and earned the highest NCAA postseason finish in school history.

Thanks to a thrilling two-hole playoff triumph over Nova Southeastern, the Lady Flames punched their ticket to the NCAA D2 Championship with a third place finish at the South/SE Super Regional which was held at the Member's Club at Woodcreek in Elgin, S.C.,

May 13–15. The Lady Flames defeated the Sharks by a stroke on the second playoff hole to break a third-place tie (928), sending Lee to the national finals in just their second year of D2 postseason eligibility.

"This has been a special season for our program, and I couldn't be prouder of the girls and everything they accomplished. We have a young roster, and I think we learned a lot from this run to the National Championship. The girls can be very proud to lock up the school's best finish at an NCAA Championship, and they represented the school very well this season," said a proud Coach Maupin.

WIERZGAC IS FIRST TEAM ALL-GULF SOUTH CONFERENCE



Lee senior catcher **NATE WIERZGAC** was named to the All-Gulf South Conference first team, as voted on by the league's coaches. Lee pitcher **ART VIDRIO** and **KIT LARSON** landed positions on the second-team squad. The Flames finished the season at 27-23 and defeated the University of West Florida 4-3 (10 innings) in the final game of the season.

For the year, the Wierzgac paced the Flames in six different categories and tied two teammates in four others. He hit .360 with 39 runs scored, four doubles, 11 home runs, 39 runs batted in, and a .663 slugging percentage. He struck out only 14 times in 172 plate appearances.

Vidrio was the workhorse of the Flames' pitching staff. He had a 3.29 earned run average in 79.1 innings. His final record was 4-4, and teams hit only .227 against his offering. Larson was Lee's late-inning specialist. He posted a 2.55 ERA in 35.1 innings. The big right-hander registered nine saves, fanned 43, and issued 14 walks.

"I think we were represented well on the all-conference team," said **COACH MARK BREW** after the conference selections were released. "Nate had a tremendous year, carrying our line-up and anchoring our defense. Art has been a mainstay of the staff and was second team last year as well. Kit did a great job anchoring our bullpen and had as many saves as I can remember in a while. It's exciting to see all of them being recognized with these honors."

TENNIS TEAMS POST WINNING SEASONS

Lee tennis players **FRANCESCA TONDI** and **RHYS MILNE** earned spots on the All-GSC (Gulf South Conference) Second Team.

"It is a great honor for both players," said Lee head coach, **PATRIC HYNES**. "Fran and Rhys played in the No. 1 spot, and there are no easy matches there. We are proud of both of them."

Tondi finished the season with an 8-3 individual record, including a 5-3 mark against GSC competition. The sophomore teamed with **MARTA GARCIA-NIETO** at No. 1 doubles where they were 6-6 overall and 3-5 in conference action.

This is the second All-GSC award for Tondi. She was selected All-GSC First Team in 2016.

Milne posted an overall season record of 7-9. He was 7-6 in dual matches and 2-4 against the GSC. The junior was 13-6 in doubles with **IGOR SCHATTA**n as his partner. The duo was 10-6 in dual matches, including a 5-4 mark in the GSC and a 1-1 record against nationally-ranked opponents.

Both squads finished successful seasons. The men were 11-6 overall and 5-4 against rugged GSC competition. The women were 8-7, 4-6.

Zoe Miller shows just how hard the Lady Flames battled to help reach a historic finish by the 2017 softball team

SOFTBALL LADY FLAMES MAKE HISTORIC TOURNEY RUN

It was a historic 2017 season for the Lee softball team as it advanced all the way to the South Super Regional in just the second year of NCAA postseason eligibility for the program.

The Lady Flames finished with a 36-20 record and rattled off three straight wins down in Saint Leo, Fla. on May 11-13 to claim the South Region 2 Championship and advance on to play West Florida in the Super Regional round of 16.

West Florida ended the postseason run for the Lee Lady Flames with two straight victories in the best-of-three series. The Argonauts outdueled the Lady Flames, winning game one 2-0 in a pitcher's duel. Lee jumped out to a 4-0 lead in game two, but the Argonauts rallied to score seven runs in the sixth inning and held on for a 7-6 win.

TAYLOR MORAN led the way for the Lady Flames during their postseason run. Moran was named to the GSC Second Team, D2 CCA All-South Region First Team and led the conference in ERA (1.36) and saved

(6). The freshman pitched her best when it mattered most, allowing just six earned runs in 29 postseason innings and was 3-2.

The Lady Flames were 19-13 in the talented Gulf South Conference. Lee was a perfect 5-0 against the defending national champion North Alabama Lions this season after a regular season road sweep and two region tournament victories. The Lady Flames also took series victories from a ranked Valdosta State club, Union, Christian Brothers, Delta State, and West Alabama.

"This has been a very special season," said Coach Russell. "We were able to accomplish some historic things for our program and our school at the NCAA D2 level, and I'm very proud of these players and how they battled every step of the way. Last year we didn't qualify for conference, but this year we made it to Super Regional."

The future is bright for the upstart Lee softball team as it returns seven starters, six of which were freshman this season, to the lineup next year.

CONLEY AND RALEIGH GARNER CONN AWARDS

Volleyball player **CATHERINE CONLEY** and cross country and track runner **BRANDON RALEIGH** have been named the winners of the 2017 Paul Conn Student Athlete of the Year Awards.

The award represents Lee University's best of the best on and off the playing field during their four-year careers. The Lee coaches and athletic administrators are asked to take part in the selection process.



CATHERINE CONLEY:

Volleyball head coach, Andrea Hudson, submitted these comments on behalf of Conley: "Catherine (Cat) combines academic excellence, extracurricular involvement, service, and leadership. She aspires to shape culture through film, and as an African-American woman, her voice is underrepresented in cinematic discourse. Cat knows the obstacles to realizing her dream, but her work at Lee demonstrates she has what it takes to get there."

Last summer, Cat attended a production assistant workshop and distinguished herself on a faculty-led production. The subsequent fall, she directed one of the best films in her class, drafting detailed storyboards on the bus as she traveled with the volleyball team. Cat participated in service projects throughout her time at Lee. Her involvements include Volley for a Cure, the Volley Skills program, the Mercy's Door Fashion Show, and others. In 2015, she was selected to attend the Gulf South Conference SAAC meeting to represent Lee, and while there, she was chosen to be a feature story for the GSC brochure."

BRANDON RALEIGH:

Track Cross Country and Track coach, Caleb Morgan, submitted these comments about Brandon: "Brandon has been a key contributor to the Cross Country and Track and Field program at Lee. He exemplifies the academic, spiritual, and athletic standards of this prestigious award. Brandon's athletic leadership has been a crucial component in our program. He has diligently balanced academics, athletics, and work, while maintaining a positive influence on the team and inspiring others. Brandon has excelled on the course and track, being a key contributor to every GSC Championship team, South Region Championship team, and NCAA National Championship team. Academically, Brandon has diligently maintained a 3.7 GPA, and will graduate magna cum laude. Spiritually, Brandon earnestly puts God first above every other aspect of his life."



About His Father's Business

BY CAROLYN DIRKSEN

Long before sunrise, **RON DORRIS '82** is up and bundled against the frozen German morning. Formerly a financial executive in Atlanta, he now delivers mail and newspapers in Emmendingen, Baden-Württemberg. He winds through the cold, dark streets six days a week at 3:00 a.m. to support his life's commitment. As Ron explains, "The newspaper delivery job allows me to finish working by 6:30 a.m., leaving the rest of the day 'to be about the Father's business.'" That business, for Ron and his wife, Anne, is offering hospitality to refugees who have flooded Germany since 2015. Theirs is the age-old biblical hospitality of breaking bread and welcoming the stranger with an open-hearted kindness that expects nothing in return.

Bilingual in German and English, Ron and Anne discovered that, while many of the refugees have learned some rudimentary English from watching movies with subtitles, few know any German, so the Dorrises' linguistic skills have been invaluable. Ron's first encounter with the refugee community came when Bashar, a Syrian refugee, asked him to translate during a Bible study. "In the course of that 13-week Faith Foundations class," Ron explains, "God worked in Bashar's heart and in mine." As a result of the class, Ron and Anne grew to love Bashar and, through him, they began their journey into the complex and challenging world of the refugee. "Although we did not go looking for refugees to minister to," Ron says, "God continued to bring one individual, and then one family after another into our lives, and He has done so ever since." Although the first language of most of the refugees is Arabic, Ron explains that, even in English, "they are grateful to find someone who can understand them and who can assist



Anne and
Ron Dorris



them as they navigate a strange land with a different culture."

If you ask Ron about his ministry, he is quick to say he isn't a pastor. In fact, he struggles to find the right word to capture exactly what he does, but in many ways, Ron and Anne participate daily in the most fundamental of Christian tasks: They meet people where they are and act like Jesus. "I just try to love God and love my neighbor," Ron explains. "Practically, for us, that includes visiting, praying for the sick, befriending strangers, and breaking bread with Afghans, Syrians, Iraqis, Iranians, Pakistanis, and anyone else that God puts in our path and on our hearts." Ron takes the idea of breaking bread quite literally. Many mornings, when he comes in from delivering the mail, he bakes bread and takes it, still warm, to these remarkable friends. "Our ministry includes doing what we know how to do, what we have never done before, what we have no idea how to do, and whatever God asks us to do."

The Dorrises' interaction with one Afghan family is typical. "We have visited them in various refugee locations where they have been settled and resettled," Ron says. "We visited the wife in the hospital after she had an emotional breakdown from the stress of her past, and we prayed with them that they would find a home that would give them peace and quiet from the overcrowded quarters where they had been assigned."

When the oldest daughter of this Muslim family invited the Dorrises to dinner, she explained, "We want to say thank you for your friendship, love, and assistance. The home we now live in was a result of your prayers for God to provide for us." Ron and

Anne gladly accepted the invitation and were treated to a lavish home-cooked Afghan meal. As a follow up to this feast, the Dorrises brought the family to their home for American hamburgers—the Afghan children's favorite food.

Ayman is another of Ron's refugee friends who has been impacted by the Dorrises' hospitality. Ron had to travel to fill in for a pastor in a distant town, and Ayman asked whether he could go along. Glad for the company, Ron welcomed him. Expecting to be banned from the church because he is a Muslim, Ayman was overwhelmed when the congregation warmly welcomed him in. "After church, we stayed for a fellowship meal," Ron recalls, "and Ayman didn't want to leave because he so strongly felt the love of that congregation." A few weeks later, Ayman was approved for refugee status, enabling him to bring his wife and son from Syria. Ayman's wife told him, "Stay friends with those Christians and

let them keep praying for you! God answers their prayers."

When you talk to Ron and Anne, you hear story after story of lives impacted by the simple gestures of friendship, and both are quick to say that they are the greatest recipients of blessing. They recently picked up a hitchhiker who turned out to be an Afghan refugee, and now their lives are intertwined with his. By helping men find housing, they make it possible for families to be reunited, and they embrace the wives and children as relatives. They translate documents and explain paperwork, and they walk people through red tape. They untangle the bureaucracy, they help with shopping, and they provide transportation. They listen to stories of heartbreak and stories of hope, and they walk with their friends through the darkest places of their sorrow. By opening their lives to these vulnerable people, Anne and Ron share in all their joys and in all their trials, weeping and rejoicing in equal measure.

A young Afghan refugee requested a Bible in Persian and asked Ron to tell him more about Christianity. All he had ever heard was how bad, untrustworthy, and harmful Christians are and how much they hate Muslims. Through Ron and Anne, he experienced genuine hospitality, care, and acceptance. "I need to learn more about Christianity," the young man said, "because I do not feel this kind of love even from my kinsmen." There are many ways to measure success, but drawing vulnerable people to Christ because of the love you show them is surely one of the best.



Ron, right, and his
friend, Ayman.

ANDREA SANTOS '88 was named 2016 West Virginia Teacher of the Year.

She is chair of the Logan High School Fine Arts Department and a Spanish teacher. She uses her creativity to encourage and empower her students. Says Logan High Principal Kelly Stanley, "Andrea does what the individual students need, and she responds by doing her best. Her lessons are never one-size-fits-all; she is innovative and makes that personal connection with her students. She doesn't just motivate them; she inspires them to seek knowledge outside the classroom. She is amazing."



Santos

THOM HOLCOMB '93, with Paragon Bank, was recently appointed Infrastructure administrator. "Thom's extensive background within the IT industry will be instrumental in the continued development of our systems," said Robert Shaw, Chief Executive Officer at Paragon Bank. As Infrastructure administrator, Thom is responsible for maintaining and building Paragon's companywide network. Additionally, he will design, implement, and test complex IT infrastructure, while securing these systems to protect productivity, mitigate threats, and reduce costs.

DAVID DANIELS '95 is the owner of two Carrolton, Ga., Chick-Fil-A locations, including a new location recently opened on Bankhead Highway. David started in the Chick-Fil-A business in Stone Mountain, Ga., when he was in high school. He attended Lee and pursued a degree in pastoral studies and ministerial leadership. Afterward, he worked his way up to general manager at a Chick-Fil-A franchise. He then continued his career by becoming the owner of his own franchise. David says, "We operate on a basis of servant leadership, which sets us apart. We treat people differently—we develop people to their potential. Obviously, our product and service are superior to anyone else. I feel there is no comparison to any other brand out there."

NICK '98 AND RAEANNA '02 GOSS live south of Nashville, Tenn., where he and his wife, RaeAnna, have two children. Nick has been working in sales, while RaeAnna homeschools the children and teaches music lessons. The Goss family would love to keep in touch with old friends. Find them on Facebook.



Goss family

PHILIP MCCUTCHAN '99 is president of operations for Wilson Bank & Trust in Williamson County, Tenn. He was formerly senior vice president. Phillip will spend his first months as president assessing the Williamson County market and determining the needs of customers in order to inform the best location for a bank branch in the coming year. Says Wilson Bank & Trust CEO Randall Clemons, "Philip is the ideal choice as president to lead this expansion. A longtime resident of Franklin, he knows the community very well and has a proven record of building strong customer relationships while generating new revenue and growth." Phillip lives with his wife, Brandi, and their three young daughters.



McCutchan

BRIAN AND LISA BURDETT LANG '00 live in Parma, Ohio, where Lisa teaches fourth grade at Bethel Christian Academy.

KARIN AUSTIN '01 is presently working part time for Peaster ISD as a long-term sub. She also operates a home-based business with The Pampered Chef. She and her husband, Ronnie, and their three children attend the North Main Church of God in Weatherford, Texas.

JENNIFER ACKERMAN '02 completed her MBA in Supply Chain Management in July 2016, and recently relocated to St Marys, OH, where she is a Logistics administrator for Continental ContiTech.

DUSTIN BOWEN '02 lives in Bonham, Texas, with his wife, Carissa Ann, where they are in ministry together as associate pastors at Living Word Church of God. They recently welcomed Tobias Josiah Bowen to their family, born in January 2017. Says Dustin, "We are already praying and believing God to touch his heart to go to Lee when it is his time. I am so grateful for what God has done in my life!"



Tobias Josiah Bowen

JONATHAN '09 and **ELIZABETH BLACK BAKER '13** and their son have lived in Louisville, Ky., since 2010. They are the family pastors at SpiritLife Church of God, and Elizabeth works full time as a third-grade instructor in the Jefferson County School District.

KACEY MOBLEY '12 was recently promoted to the post of senior probation officer for the Department of Community Rehabilitation (DCR) from the district of George Town, Cayman Islands. She joined the department in 2013, and during that time, she advanced from a probation officer graduate to a probation officer. She will supervise DCR teams responsible for general court services, Cayman Brac services, and female services.

ADAM DOMMEYER '13 currently resides in Minneapolis, Minn., with his wife, Hannah, and their two daughters. Adam is pursuing an M.A. in Transformational Leadership at Bethel Seminary. He works as an enrollment counselor for Bethel University and Seminary in St. Paul and is director of Latter-Day Sense Evangelism Ministry—an outreach to Mormons. He invites his friends to visit his website: latterdaysense.org.



Bowen family

To Submit an Update for Who's Where:

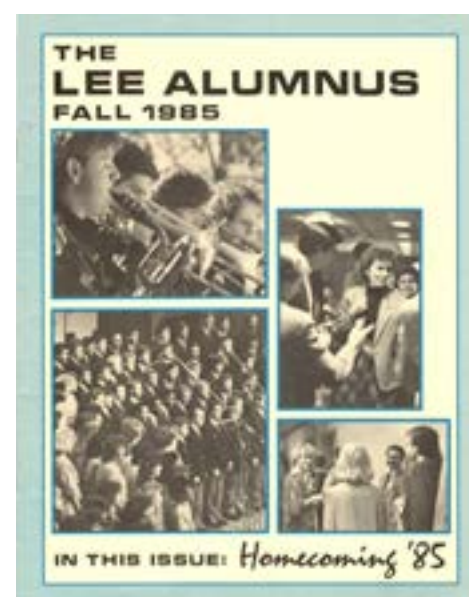
1. Visit leeuniversity.edu/alumni and click on the Alumni and Partners link.
2. Click *Torch*.
3. Click the Who's Where Update option.

MEMORABLE MAGS

BY CAMERON FISHER, EDITOR

In the 113 issues in which I served as editor, each one evoked memories. Every issue covered important news and events, (all those Celebrations and graduations!), but for me personally, the following covers brought a special sense of recall:

► **FALL '89**—First change in logo



▲ **FALL '85**—The first issue of the resurrected Alumnus

► **FALL '87**—Cameron Fisher becomes editor



▲ **WINTER '91**—Name changed from Alumnus to Torch



◀ **SPRING '91**—Move from 16 to 20 pages

In spring 1984, my senior year at Lee, I was asked to write a couple of articles for a four-page, one-color periodical that was mailed to Lee alumni. It was called the *Lee Alumnus*, and I was unaware at the time that due to budgetary and personnel issues, *Alumnus* had been discontinued as a magazine. What I was contributing to was a timid reincarnation, which soon went by the wayside again.

Fast-forward a year, and I was on staff in the new Institutional Advancement Department at Lee, alongside my boss, Vice President Paul Conn. A few months into his new post, VP Conn pulled an all-nighter and produced the entire contents of an attempt to revive the *Lee Alumnus*. He walked the copy over to the Church of God Publishing House and told the design staff what he wanted: a 16-page, two-color magazine. What came off the press two weeks later was the fall 1985 issue of *Lee Alumnus*. This time the resurrection stuck, because there was a commitment behind it to deliver a quarterly, 16-page publication to Lee alumni.

After that first issue, Dr. Conn relegated most of the *Alumnus* production to the IA staff. I don't recall the exact sequence of events, but over the next two years, I became enamored with the compilation of *Alumnus*. I wrote portions of it (on a typewriter), scrounged in files for photos, and placed waxy clip-art on a layout board. In June 1987, I climbed on top of Walker Arena to get a "bird's-eye" photo of the demolition of the old auditorium, because I knew alumni would love to see it from that angle in the summer *Alumnus*. That was a pivotal moment for me in what would become a 30-year journey of producing the Lee alumni publication.

The next issue—fall 1987—was the first one where my name was listed as editor. It was a bold move on my part at age 25 and a junior staffer. I don't remember anyone



FALL '93—First of a three-part series on the 75th Anniversary

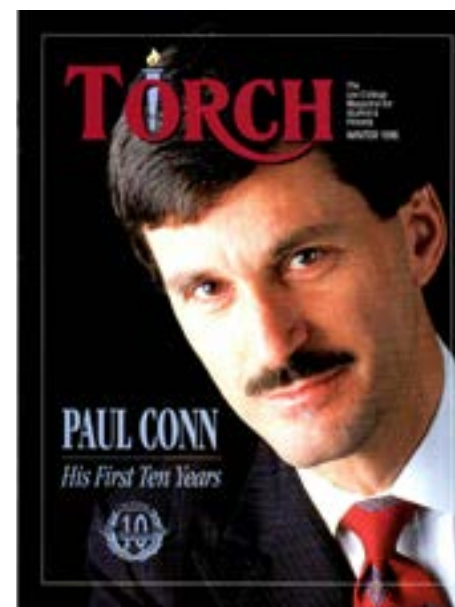
◀ **WINTER '94**—First of a four-issues series covering the Ellis Hall Fire



▲ **FALL '94**—First four-color cover



▲ **FALL '01**—9/11 Alumni testimonials



▲ **WINTER '96**—Review of President Conn's first ten years

FALL '96—Complete coverage of the Lee Olympic Village

WINTER '97—What was originally my last issue...(announcement that Lee will become university)



▲ **FALL '98**—I'm baaacckk...(coverage of Celebration '98)



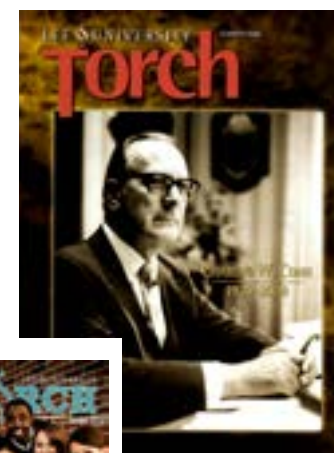
WINTER '01—Student Union showcased

WINTER '02—Bob Fisher resigns as designer for the first time after 14 years; page count reaches highest ever: 60

SPRING '06—Logo revised; Bob Fisher returns as designer

FALL '06—Paul Conn's 20th anniversary

▼ **SUMMER '08**—Remembering Charles W. Conn



◀ **SPRING '10**—Voices of Lee place third on NBC's "Sing-Off;" Grant Fisher is new designer

telling me, "Hey, Cameron! You're the editor of *Alumnus*." It just kind of ... appeared. That issue was groundbreaking, because it was the first one where we employed the new concept, "desktop publishing." My brother, Bob, also in his 20s and a member of the Psychology faculty, had practically mortgaged his home to buy an Apple Macintosh, laser printer, and software. Using his natural abilities, Bob produced the entire magazine on a computer screen, almost unheard of back then. Bob and I were the team for several years, experimenting with new designs, and spending many late nights staring at that tiny, one-color screen.

Flipping back through 32 years of issues, each one evokes a set of memories and emotions: chronicling the construction of dozens of new buildings; the coming and going of faculty; three graduations a year; nearly a dozen capital campaigns; the Ellis Hall fire; Olympic Village; 75th anniversary; the razing of houses and closing of streets. In addition to subjects, the memories came from concept changes, including an increase from the standard 16 pages to 20 (it was a big deal!), the renaming to "Torch" from "Alumnus" in 1991; the first color cover in 1994; and the eventual transition to full color throughout.

In 1996, I accepted a new position across town with Church of God Communications. One of my biggest regrets at the time was giving up *Torch*, which had become a fixture in my professional life. However, fate would shine down 18 months later as President Conn asked me to serve as "consulting editor" on a temporary basis during a transition in the Public Information Office.

That was 19 years ago.

With this issue, I pass the mantle of *Torch* editorship to the next generation. I would be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to call out a few names of those who have been with me through the *Torch* years. I have mentioned Bob Fisher who resigned and came back for a second helping of being designer. The second time, he turned over the reins to my son, Grant, who inherited his uncle's talent for desktop design. Grant was not even born when I began this journey. There are the many alumni directors who have come and gone over the years: Ron Gilbert, Jeff Kallay, Walt Mauldin, Veva Rose, Kevin Brooks, Anita Ray and Patti Cawood, but just as important were the administrative assistants in that office who were my contacts for the latest alumni information. George Starr has been invaluable as sports editor. Note to my successor: unless you're a sports writer, George is the man!

Of course, President Conn deserves my biggest thanks for his confidence and trust in me to produce 113 issues of his mouthpiece of information to alumni and friends. He was involved in all 113 of those publications, signing off on the final design before we went to press. It has been my privilege to be his editor for nearly all his 31-year presidency.

With the exception of that 18-month hiatus, this will be the first time in 32 years I will not be dialed in to the news coming from Lee University with an ear to how it will be presented to alumni in *Torch*. I suspect I will still have that in the back of my head for a few months. I look forward to being an "uninformed" alumnus who gets the news about his alma mater four times a year through *Torch*!



▲ **SUMMER '17**—Completion of 30 years as editor

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