

TORCH



LEE UNIVERSITY • SPRING 2024

Mikayla Horton '24, a senior nursing major and studio assistant for ceramics classes, throws pottery on a wheel in the newly renovated Mayfield Annex. This historic building is home to Lee's art programs in addition to the Center for Teaching Excellence and the Marriage and Family Therapy programs.

Photo by Jason Moore '14





LEE UNIVERSITY TORCH
SPRING 2024 Vol. 66 / No. 01

Torch Magazine is an official publication of Lee University, Cleveland, Tennessee. It is a quarterly publication intended to inform, educate, and give insight to alumni, parents, and friends of the university. For more information, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (423) 614-8316 or email alumni@leeuniversity.edu.

MAILING ADDRESS 1120 N. Ocoee St.
Cleveland, TN 37311
WEBSITE leeuniversity.edu
EMAIL torch@leeuniversity.edu
PHONE 1-800-LEE-9930
or 423-614-8316

TORCH TEAM Paul Conn, editor
Jason Moore, design
Susan Ashcraft
Regenia Collier
Brian Conn
Carolyn Dirksen
Vanessa Conn Hammond
Carman Lastoria
Brad Moffett
Louis Morgan
Jeff Salyer
Stephanie Taylor
Jayson VanHook

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS Susan Ashcraft
Brian Conn
Paul Conn
Carolyn Dirksen
Cameron Fisher
Kendra Gray
Carman Lastoria
Iris Luce
Taylor Smith
George Starr
Dewayne Thompson
Mark Walker

PHOTOGRAPHY Ashlynn Akiona
Abi Belcher
Brennan Brownlee
Jason Moore
Ankit Reddi
Reily Rogers
Abigail Smith
Ethan Toomire
Bella Williams
Garrett Williams
Media Services

DESIGN Lee University Office of Publications

USPS 16-272 The Torch is published quarterly by Lee University, 1120 N. Ocoee Street, Cleveland, TN 37311. Periodicals paid at Cleveland, TN 37311, Volume 66, Spring 2024. Postmaster send address changes to Lee University Alumni Relations, P. O. Box 3450, Cleveland, TN 37320.



Cover Photo by
Jackie Borella

For many Lee students, spring is the most delightful season on campus. After a cold, gray winter, suddenly dozens of shades of green appear, accented by blooming shrubs and trees. A perfect season for a park bench!

CONTENTS

04 WALKER STEPS DOWN
AS 17TH PRESIDENT

10 IRELAND
Spring Break Global
Perspectives Trip

16 LEEU MOCK TRIAL
Competes at Tulane University

18 BROTHERS WITH A CALLING
City of Refuge

25 MEN OPPOSING SEX
TRAFFICKING

28 EPHRAIM'S STORY

30 THE HEART AND SOUL
IN SPORTS
Lee Alums Lead FCA

36 BRINGING WATER TO
NICARAGUA

42 FLAMES IN THE BIG
LEAGUES

48 2023 DONORS

48 OH, THE PLACES THEY
WILL GO
Alumni in the Western United States

17 LEE REVIEW
What's Happening at Lee

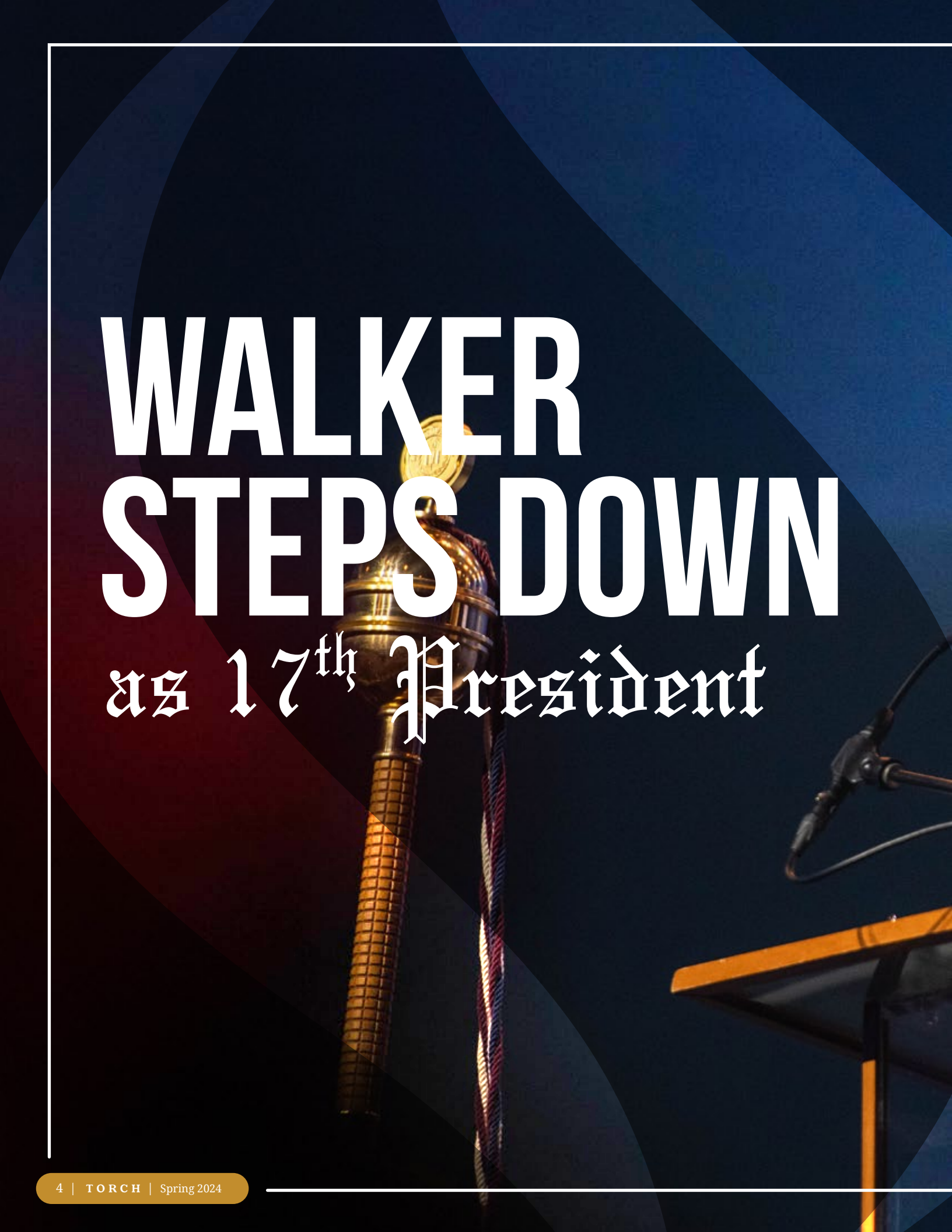
26 CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS
A Showcase of Lee Events

38 NEWS FROM LEE FLAMES
Lee Sports in the Headlines

46 A CHANCELLOR'S VIEWPOINT
Paul Conn

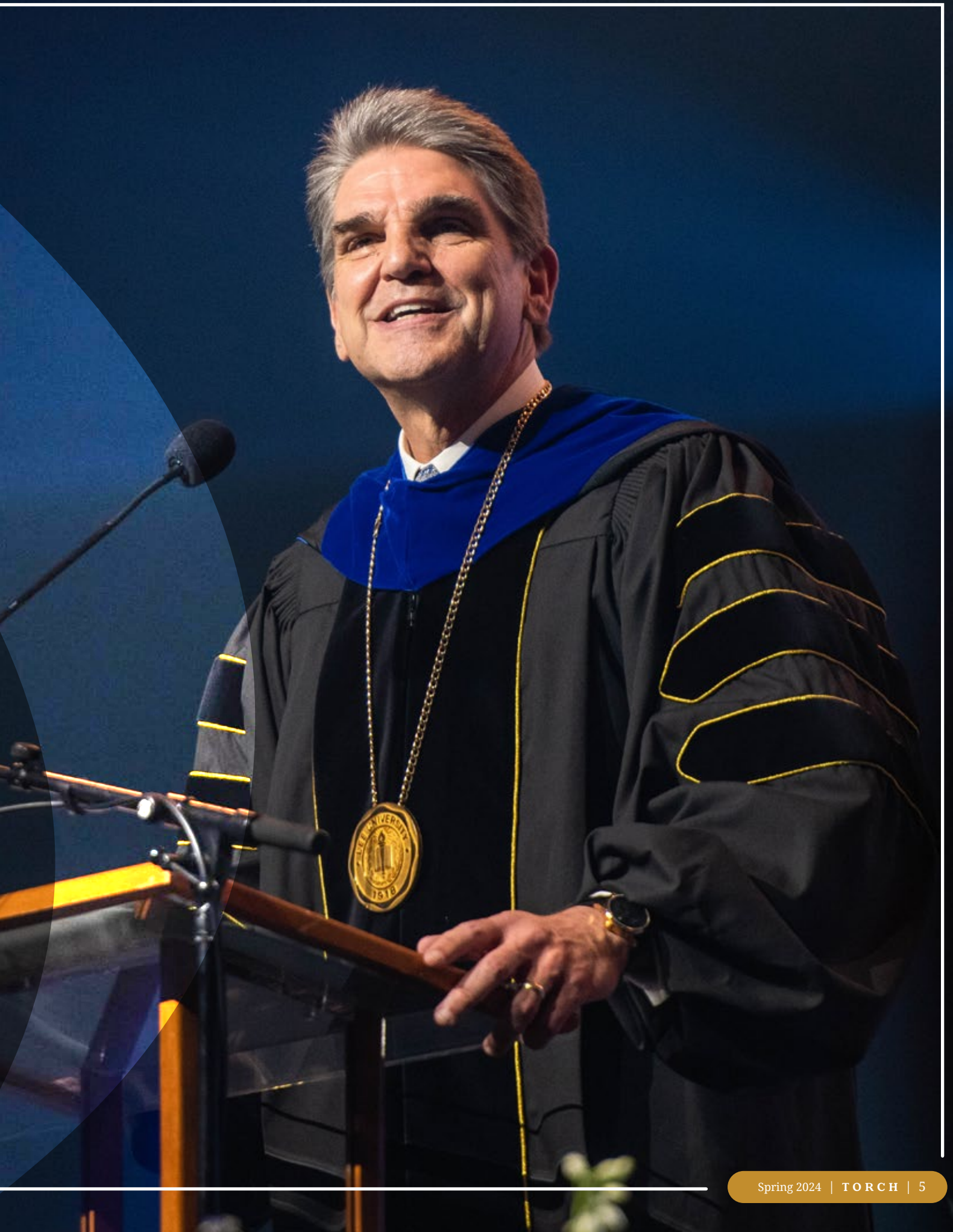
62 LEE ALUMNI UPDATES
A Spotlight of Lee Alums

64 IN MEMORY
Remembering Those Who Have Passed



WALKER STEPS DOWN

as 17th President





Dr. & Mrs.
Walker



**Walker receives
standing ovation
from students
in Chapel**
March 19, 2024





Dr. Mark Walker will bring his presidency to an end on May 5, when he will preside over Lee's spring commencement ceremony.

The announcement of Walker's departure from the presidency was made in a joint meeting of Lee faculty and staff on March 18. Walker had called the special session to follow a meeting of the Board of Directors earlier that day.

Walker also announced that the Board had asked Paul Conn '67 to return to the presidency to serve a one-year term as President and Chancellor, beginning May 5, 2024. Conn accepted the Board's call, Walker announced, although Conn did not speak at the all-employee meeting.

Walker became president on August 1, 2020. Before that, he served for three years as Vice President for Ministerial Development and Chair of the Department of Christian Ministries. Walker came to Lee in 2017 following twenty-five years as senior pastor of the Mount Paran North Church of God in Marietta, Georgia.

The day following his announcement to the faculty/staff, Walker gave the news to a full house of students in Conn Center, as part of a regular Tuesday chapel service. Walker told both audiences that he has not yet decided at this time on his next professional step. The student chapel began and the faculty/staff session ended with standing ovations from the two audiences.

"Udella and I feel that my time as President is completed and therefore, I am not pursuing reappointment as the 17th President of Lee University.

This was not an easy decision to make, and it was one that required much prayer and conversation. We came to Lee seven years ago sincerely believing that God had called us here, and we still believe He did. Every time I've been asked my favorite part of being a university president, without hesitation I say, "the students." They are what make leaving the presidency at Lee so difficult.

It is no secret that the past four years that I have been president have been challenging at Lee. I have attempted to lead us through this time to the best of my ability, trusting the entire time that God had Udella and me here. If I'm being completely honest, a few times throughout these turbulent years, I have contemplated leaving, but didn't feel released by God to do so, but Udella and I now believe our assignment as president is over.

We feel that Lee needs a new president. I do not believe I'm the one to lead Lee any further. I have not been asked to leave, nor am I being forced to leave. I'm stepping aside because it's the right thing to do at this time for Lee and for my family and for me.

I believe I was built more for being a pastor than a university president. It is who I am and how I feel God has best wired me. Many have said to me these past four years that Lee needed a pastor to lead them through these difficult times. I don't know if that's true, but if it is, then I pray we've pastored this university well.

I will continue as president up through the May commencement. Today, the board voted unanimously to ask Dr. Conn to accept a one-year appointment as President and Chancellor, and he has accepted the appointment, to begin May 5.

Just know for now – regardless of my next chapter – the world needs Lee University, because the world is a better place with Lee graduates in it. God is not done with Lee."



“May we never forget that Lee is God’s place, and we are doing God’s work, loving, serving, and working together God’s way. Our mission is clear and our dreams are high – because the world is a better place with Lee students in it!”

As Lee’s seventeenth president, Walker’s term has not been an unusually brief one in Lee’s history. More than half of Lee’s presidents have served four years or less. Before Walker, there were two four-year presidencies (James A. Cross and A. J. Tomlinson), three three-year terms (J. Stewart Brinsfield, E. L. Simmons, and Rufus Platt), a single two-year term (Lamar Vest), and three presidents who served only one year (Flavius Lee, J. B Ellis, and John C. Jernigan). §

Following Walker’s announcement, the chairman of Lee’s Board, Texas businessman Wade Lombard ‘02, said in a statement:

“We are truly grateful to Dr. Walker for all his hard work as president since 2020, and now we are trusting God for a positive trajectory for Lee University as we move forward into the next period. We are optimistic and hopeful about the future!”

Walker’s presidential term began as the school was already five months into the spread of the Covid pandemic. Earlier in 2020, Lee had suspended classes and sent students home midway through the spring semester, as other colleges and universities around the country had done. Spring and summer commencements had been cancelled, leaving hundreds of students to forgo traditional commencement ceremonies in favor of “commencement in a box” delivered by UPS and FedEx.

The pandemic also delayed Walker’s presidential inauguration, which occurred on April 23, 2021. In his inaugural ceremony, Walker said,





CONN RETURNS AS PRESIDENT FOR YEAR # 35

Upon receiving the news of Dr. Walker's desire to step down, the Lee University Board of Directors voted unanimously to ask Dr. Paul Conn '67 to return as president starting May 5. Conn agreed to resume the CEO role for one year, with the title President and Chancellor.

Conn's 34-year presidency was a time of tremendous growth and accomplishment for his alma mater. Most conspicuous was the enrollment growth from 1000 students to over 5000 and the additions of dozens of new majors and programs. To support that growth, two dozen new buildings were constructed and the campus footprint

enlarged from 25 to 140 acres, stretching almost a mile from the new track-and-field complex on the northern border to the Danny Murray Recording Studio at the southern edge.

"My mandate from the Board is to deliver to a new president, in summer of 2025, a university that is better in every way than we have in 2024. With God's help and the hard work of lots of people, I believe we can do that."





IRELAND

Spring Break Global Perspectives Trip

by Brian Conn '96 | Director of Communications



*At the foot of Croagh Patrick,
overlooking Clew Bay, ISB '24*



On a mild St. Patrick's Day evening this spring, a motor coach pulled into the parking lot at Schimmels Park on Lee's campus and offloaded forty travelers who had awakened nineteen hours before in a little town on the west coast of Ireland. The groggy group dispersed with little fanfare or conversation, most of them anticipating a regular spring class schedule the next day. This understated arrival marked the successful completion of my twelfth journey to Ireland with a merry band of Lee students.

Since 2011, over 300 students have come with me on a nine-day excursion to the Emerald Isle, coinciding with their spring break, and almost all of them took the trip to fulfill their requirement to gain a cross-cultural experience for graduation.

This cross-cultural experience credit is just one piece of the end game for the twenty-year-old Global Perspectives program at Lee. When Lee began requiring this experience abroad for graduation, they soon realized the need to offer a broad slate of opportunities from which students could choose. With as many as 600 students in a given year pursuing this credit, it was necessary to have enough options to accommodate them. Among these options was the Ireland Spring Break experience, one of the handful of annual programs organized by the Global Perspectives office. Somewhere along the way, I was asked to be the faculty support, going to teach and chaperone. After three years of that, Global Perspectives asked me if I'd like to "fly solo."



*Jaunting car ride through Killarney National Park
(backdrop of Saint Mary's Cathedral), ISB '22*



The Long Room at Trinity College, Dublin, ISB '19

I said, “You mean would I like to be the Ireland guy?”

“Yes,” they said.

“Yes,” I answered, in three shakes of a lamb’s tail. (That means I responded quickly. And even though I’ve heard that phrase from my mother all my life, the saying sounds pretty Irish, I think, so I’m sticking with it.)

That was over ten years ago, and I’ve loved every minute of it, both for the obvious reason that I’ve fallen in love with the country itself and also for the opportunity every year to see students’ eyes open a little wider to what’s out there in the big world and sometimes even wider to what’s inside them.

The itinerary has remained much the same over the twenty years or so since the trip’s inception. We visit four locations in nine days: Dublin, Killarney, Galway, and Westport, all within the Republic of Ireland. Students go out and meet Irish citizens and have conversations with them so they can return to their rooms at night and write out case studies and reflective journals in an effort to learn. We want them to learn not just what it means to be in Ireland, but more importantly what it means to be Irish.

Between that interpersonal engagement with locals and hours of touring, spectating, reading, and reflecting, plus a solid dose of classroom time before and after the trip, the students have a new, deeper understanding of how big and old the world is, of how different things may be in spite of a common language, and also of how similar people are at the core, even from such different backgrounds.



Saint Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin, ISB '17

That's the goal. And there are few places better to achieve that goal than Ireland. From breathtaking vistas, to people you just met that feel like old friends, to museums, monuments, and ruins that speak of a history older than anything we live around, the whole trip is supercharged with opportunity for students to experience moments that will stand in their memories for a lifetime.

We hope that for every student who steps onto the plane with us, they will step into new personal territory in terms of understanding other people groups – hence the term “Global Perspectives.” It's actually a pretty ambitious goal even at a university, given the way people in our current climate insulate themselves from new information and points of view.

And Ireland lends toward other discoveries and contemplations that are even deeper and more personal than intercultural exploration. Something about the combination of adventure, the imbalance that new surroundings or cultures can bring, a flood of new information, and the beauty of God's creation can combine to create great introspection, even to young people who aren't necessarily searching for it.

One of my favorite moments from my twelve excursions was on a somewhat clammy but bright day on the remote island of Inishmore, one of a trio of small slabs of rock in Galway Bay called the Aran Islands. We walk after breakfast to a bus and ride to a ferry, which chugs through the choppy bay to the little docking town of Kilronan, where students choose to ride a van or

pedal a bike the 4.5 miles to a Bronze Age, cliffside ring fort called Dun Angus. We usually try to keep everyone grouped close together so that we can walk about a half-mile up a steep hill to the ring fort, get a group photo and look out across the water. It's such a difficult journey that the big moment at the cliffside, encircled by impossibly old rock walls, proving that human beings for untold generations have been stunned by the view from that very spot, often proves to be the pinnacle moment of the trip for a majority of the students we take.

But on this day, one young man broke into the lead on his bike and just disappeared. He was a buff, athletic rugby player with a flair for exploration, and he had no idea where we were going or what we were planning to do. I'm not sure, but he may have been a student who simply thought Ireland was a cool place to do spring break. I began to worry, so I made sure the group had an idea of where they were going and pedaled ahead to try to find him as quickly as my middle-aged legs could go. I went to the base of the hill, where two ladies in the welcome center said a lone student had arrived recently and went on up the trail to the fort. So I headed up the hill to make sure it was him and maybe convince him to slow down a little and wait for everyone else. I thought, well if he's going to rush through the experience, at least he could linger nearby for the group pic.

When I reached the top, I found him standing alone facing the open expanse of the bay, waves crashing against the cliff below, a shaft of sunlight piercing the



*Atop Dún Aonghasa
prehistoric hill fort,
Aran Islands,
ISB '22*





Ross Castle, Killarney, ISB '16

cloud layer like a spotlight illuminating a circle of the turbulent sea. I came up beside him and he glanced at me briefly before returning to his view of the horizon. His face held a tension that differed from his usually confident, lighthearted affect.

"You okay?" I asked.

"Yeah," he replied. "I got lost and went all over the place and then came up here but had no idea what I'd find."

I said, "Well you found it. Everyone else will be here soon."

He said, "I don't know what this place is, but you can't really be up here without thinking about God."

I said, "Yeah, I'm glad you found it." And I left him to his special moment and went back down to greet the rest of the group and bring them along.

That moment showed me just one of the many occasions the Ireland trip has potential to penetrate our routines, and our worries, and our busyness and show us something that stops us in our tracks, even when we least expect it. For him, was it a moment of deep spiritual awakening that changed him forever? Maybe, maybe not. But I'd bet he still remembers it all these years later. It's that potential that makes the Ireland trip, for me, worth every minute of work and worry that goes along with leading it. And my suspicion is that each trip at Lee, lovingly curated by its respective faculty leaders, crisscrossing the globe, is loaded with this same potential, plus a crowd of young alumni with their own stories to prove it. They'll carry those for the rest of their lives.

Erin Go Bragh (Forever Ireland) §



Lee University MOCK TRIAL

Competes at **Tulane University**

By Iris Luce

The Lee University Mock Trial (LUMT) team recently competed at Tulane University's "Battle at the Bayou" tournament in New Orleans, Louisiana.

According to Paul Atherton, a senior political science major and president of LUMT, the team faced some of the toughest competitors in the nation, including Tulane, American University, Rhodes College, and University of Georgia.


"This was the most challenging invitational Mock Trial has attended for a long time," said Atherton. "Nevertheless, despite being a team of predominantly first year competitors, we stood toe-to-toe with these programs."

Though LUMT did not score in the top five, Atherton won an Outstanding Attorney Award, which is given to attorneys who receive high marks on their scoring ballots. This is Atherton's 10th award, making him the

recipient of the most awards so far for LUMT students during their time on the team.

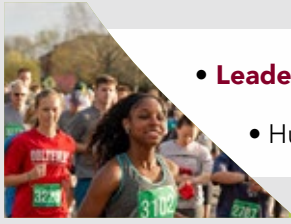
"I am very proud of our Mock Trial Team," said Dr. Mark Scully, associate professor of political science and faculty sponsor for LUMT. "They went to New Orleans and competed with some of the best teams in the country. Every ballot they won was hard-fought and well deserved, and they are perhaps better positioned to compete in the regional competition than ever before."

LUMT will compete against other advanced teams during the regional tournaments this spring in Columbia, South Carolina.

To learn more about Lee University Mock Trial or support the team, contact Atherton at mocktrial@leeuniversity.edu or visit their Instagram at [leeumocktrial](https://www.instagram.com/leeumocktrial). 



- **Leadership Team for Walker Preaching Center** Announced (left)



- Hundreds Gather for **23rd Annual Great Strides** (right)



- Students Spend **Semester in U.K.**



- DHMM Students Partner with **Samaritan's Purse** (left)

- U.S. News Ranks Lee Online Among **Among Best Online Programs** (right)



- School of Nursing Hosts **Mass Casualty Event**



- Kristen Pope (left) and Holly Perleoni (right) **Earn Doctorates**



- Campus Security receives **OCJP Grant**



- Three Faculty Receive **ACA Fellowship**

LEE REVIEW

HEADLINES YOU
MIGHT HAVE MISSED



BROTHERS WITH A CALLING

*by Carolyn Dirksen, PhD
Distinguished Professor Emerita of English*

The City of Refuge, located in the heart of the Atlanta inner-city, is a remarkable ministry that has provided the resources for tens of thousands of people to transform their lives. Operating out of a remodeled warehouse complex in Atlanta's most underserved and dangerous zip code, City of Refuge provides housing, food, childcare, job training, substance abuse recovery, and countless other resources that take people from desperation to hope. This extraordinary program is operated by two brothers, Lee alums Bruce and Jeff Deel, who draw on their family background to meet people exactly where they are and to redefine the roles of leader and follower.

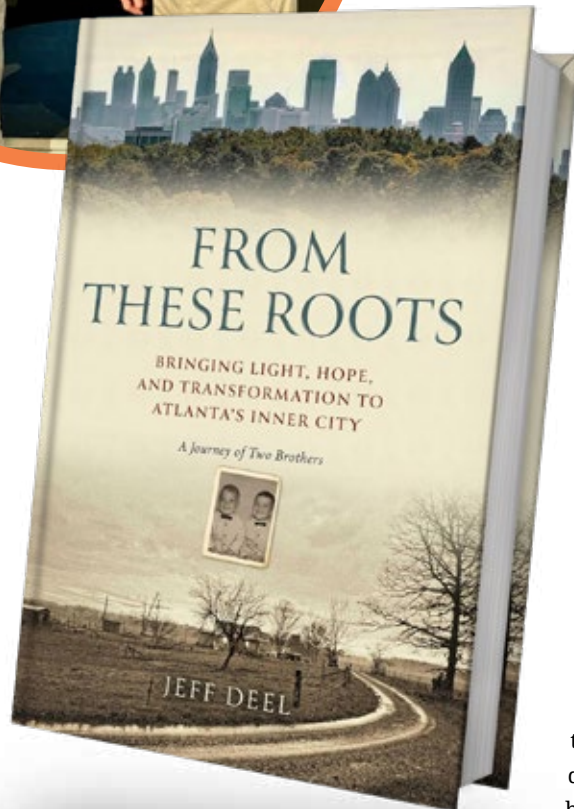
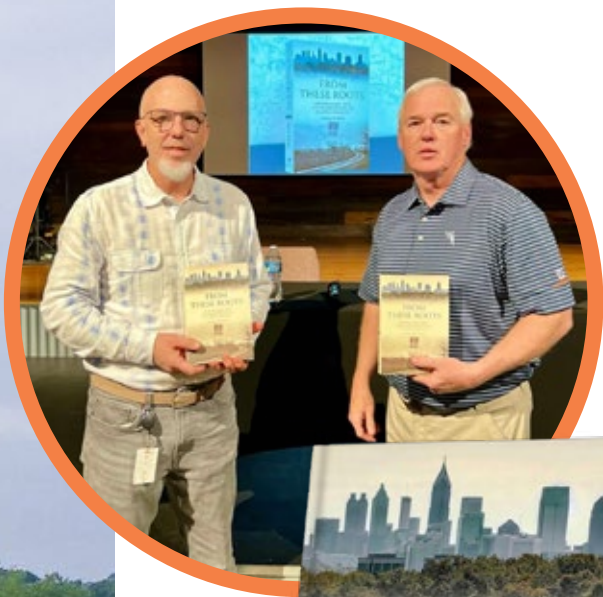


CITY OF REFUGE



CITY OF REFUGE





Jeff, the younger brother and self-described “loyal follower,” has written a new book, *From These Roots*, describing their idyllic childhood in West Virginia and how it led to Bruce’s vision for City of Refuge and to Jeff’s commitment to making the vision a reality. Sons of a West Virginia preacher/evangelist, Bruce and Jeff grew up swimming in rivers, exploring the woods, riding steers, and jumping—or throwing their younger brother Keith—off the hayloft, and yet in surprising ways, this innocent, rural childhood prepared them for life in the deep inner-city of Atlanta where they interact with people from very different backgrounds.

“Dad and Mom were a little bit ahead of the times,” Bruce explains in an undiluted West Virginia accent. “We had people living with us on a regular basis that were homeless or in crisis, and it was engrained in us that you should care for the least of these. It was modeled for us that your life should be a reflection of the benevolent character of God.”

Jeff agrees, and in the first chapter of the book he says, “They cared for ‘the least of these’ as if the ‘least of these’ were their own babies. They fed the hungry, clothed the naked, tended to widows and orphans, and viewed every egregious lawbreaker as someone who deserves another chance.” He attributes to parental modeling any good characteristic the Deel offspring might possess.

That exceptional family also sharpened the edge the brothers needed for life amid the dangers of the inner city. “We were scrappers because we moved so often, and we had to prove ourselves in school again and again,” Bruce explains. “So having a scrapper mentality and a

benevolent heart-of-God mentality just meshed together when we were invited to the inner-city. Although it looks a lot different from what we grew up in, it’s actually reflective of our background.”

Jeff also recalls, “Our parents’ unflinching acceptance of people in trouble actually led to some dangerous situations that prepared us for what we are doing now. There is a story in the book about an angry husband shooting into our house where my mother was shielding his wife. We had to lay flat on the floor and hope not to get shot.” Bruce and Jeff grew up knowing that helping others had risks and consequences, but their parents lived with complete commitment to the ideal, and now so do they. Bruce recalls that during the first six years, while he and his family of five daughters lived in the old church where City of Refuge started, they experienced 34 break-ins and had multiple vehicles stolen.

Another crucial aspect of their childhood that led to their remarkable work is the model of leading and following. Bruce explains, “From the very early days, I seemed to have a leadership bent. I was the one to run out in front and figure things out later. Jeff was always right there with me.” Many of the stories



in the book bear out the natural inclination of the boys. “Bruce has always been an adventurer, risk taker, and innovator,” Jeff explains. “Obstacles only seem to make the journey more fun.” Jeff was always more reflective, less spontaneous, but always on hand to help Bruce live out his dreams and impulses.

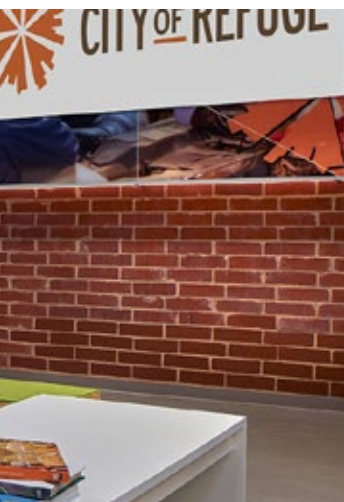
“Early in life I didn’t understand our roles quite so clearly, and I was always looking for a break point, and I tried a few things, and I don’t regret it because I learned a lot,” Jeff says. “For the first 10 years after I came to City of Refuge, I had the mindset that I was in training to lead something of my own. Then, as I filled different roles in the organization, my mindset changed, and I thought, ‘I’m following a great leader, and there is nothing out there really beckoning to me. I think this is my purpose—to follow this vision.’ I realized that there are a few people who are called to lead and the rest of us are called to follow. If we can settle into that, we can have a very meaningful life, and we will see a lot of results. A lot of good work will happen, and we don’t have to be frustrated.”

Bruce is aware of the advantages of a follower like Jeff. “It’s very rewarding to work with someone who believes in your vision,” he explains. “I may be the one in front leading the battle, but he’s the one supporting, rallying the troops, training them, equipping them, and empowering them to fulfill the vision. It gives a leader a great place of contentment and rest to know that the people behind him are not jockeying for his position, but they are content in their role.”



For both of them, sharing the family bond is an essential component of their close teamwork. As Jeff explains, “There are so many siblings that not only don’t do good work together, they don’t even speak to each other, and that’s one of the greatest tragedies in the human race to me. Bruce and I have worked shoulder to shoulder for 26 years, and we’ve never had an argument. We have our own opinions, and we’ve gone back and forth about things, but we’ve never really argued, not once. I attribute that to us realizing in our 30s that he was supposed to lead, and I was supposed to follow. We got really comfortable with that, and it has made the pathway not flawless but good.”

Jeff and Bruce’s parents taught them that every human being is created in the image of God and deserves to be treated with dignity and trust. Bruce explains, “Coming from poverty, brokenness, and abuse, Dad never lost his feeling of empathy and compassion for those that came from the most difficult places in life. He taught us and modeled for us that every single person—regardless of lifestyle, regardless of their pattern of behavior, regardless of what they express with their





words—every one of them was created in the image of God, and that they’re valuable, and we should treat them as that. We may disagree with how they express themselves in life right now, but that has nothing to do with the fact that they were created in the image of God.”

Bruce’s book, *Trust First*, develops this theme and demonstrates how it set the framework for the work of City of Refuge. As the organization grows, it is increasingly difficult to ensure that that this commitment is carried out, and that has become part of Jeff’s calling. “Jeff is our caretaker of mission,” Bruce explains. “He watches what’s going on and makes sure our staff treats people with dignity. He makes sure those who show up on our campus feel valued and important without having to prove their value to us. This role of caretaker was passed down from our dad to Jeff specifically, and it’s an incredible attribute. I’m out raising money and speaking and casting the vision, but somebody has to manage the day-to-day to make sure that it’s expressing the vision and dreams I’m raising money to support.”

Jeff agrees and sees this as a vital part of his role. “It’s vastly important to protect the culture, the integrity, and the dignity. You may float along and have good number and be able to show some results, but that’s not the measuring stick. If you’re not treating people with respect and dignity everywhere in the organization, you’ve lost something essential.”

That view of every member of the human family is created in the image of God permeates all the work of City of Refuge. More than 250 women live on the campus in housing that is well-maintained and attractive and eat food that is fresh and thoughtfully prepared. “We think every individual who comes to our campus—the billionaire donor, the drug addict that we picked up off the streets last night—every one of them deserves the same amount of dignity,” Bruce explains. “Dignity is not a metal bed frame with a dirty mattress or used clothing or food that we picked up at the grocery store that is two or three days old. Dignity is a beautiful place with fresh linens, with home cooked food, with a beautiful playground for your kids and a high quality educational environment. We think people deserve that.”

The price tag for that is \$27 million a year that Bruce raises from a variety of sources. “We believe that if we perform at a high level, and the people engage in the resources we provide and then become productive, independent, self-sustaining citizens, the community loves that, and they will invest in that. Obviously, we have a strategy, and we have a development team, but a lot of it has been the favor of God as we try to walk out an expression of who He is in the earth.”

Two scrappy brothers from rural West Virginia have made the dreams of thousands of people a reality by understanding their roles as leader and follower, by committing to a difficult calling, by recognizing the image of God in everyone they meet. §



MEN OPPOSING SEX TRAFFICKING

by Carolyn Dirksen

City of Refuge in Atlanta (*see related story “Brothers with a Calling”*) has been serving the needs of women and children rescued from sex trafficking for 10 years in its award-winning program House of Cherith (HOC). Bruce Deel heads City of Refuge with the help of his brother Jeff, while his daughter, Kelsi Franco, directs the work of HOC. Now operating in Georgia, Texas, and Maryland, HOC has served thousands of women in safe houses, long-term residences, homes for women with children, and therapeutic retreat centers. Like others served by City of Refuge, survivors receive help at every level of need from safety, food, and shelter to job training and trauma therapy.

After hearing the terrible stories shared by the women at HOC for eight years, Bruce decided to attack the sex-trafficking problem from a seldom-discussed angle—the role of men. In 2022, he launched Men Opposing Sex Trafficking (MOST), possibly the only male-focused initiative in the country.


“Women at the House of Cherith have told us they’ve been abused by men; they’ve been raped by men; they’ve been sold by men,” Bruce explains. “I’ve come to realize that the demand side—which is 99% men – drives the supply side. If we can address the demand side, if we can get men to rise up and address this evil in society, then the supply side can begin to go away, and tens of thousands of women and children will never be victimized by sex trafficking and exploitation.”

Although addressing men as the agents of sex trafficking seems obvious, the City of Refuge team appears to be unique in taking this approach. “There are great organizations serving survivors, bringing about awareness, working on legislation, and all that sort of thing, but there just isn’t anyone specifically targeting men,” Bruce contends. The main strategy for reaching men is through churches. “We start with a two-hour impactful, in-your-face presentation, but we follow that up with a nine-week course that Jeff

wrote for boys age 12 and over and for adult men,” Bruce says. “The curriculum is to help men – young men, fathers and sons – talk about sexuality and lust, the objectification of women, and the effects of pornography. Last week, we had 300 men and older boys in a sanctuary listening to this presentation and starting the course.”

An initial event called “Welcome to the War,” introduces men to the scope of the sex-trafficking problem and to the kinds of actions they can take to fight against it. The curriculum for the next nine weeks explores those topics in more detail. “Each lesson begins with a story of one of the women served through House of Cherith,” Jeff explains. “Then we introduce principles and provide questions for small-group discussion.” As a follow up, men are invited to join MOST for more in-depth training in identifying sex traffic victims and alerting law enforcement, for participating in extraction operations, and for funding these projects. MOST also provides recovery programs for men involved with pornography or other sexual issues. Bruce raises \$5 million a year to fund MOST, so the curriculum is free to participants.

“We assume that most of the men we meet in these sessions are against sex-trafficking,” Bruce adds. “The point isn’t to convince them that it’s bad. We want to motivate them to actually take action against it, to help us prevent it by understanding what draws men into it and by seeing the extent of the damage it causes.” The MOST website invites men to act by searching for victims, supporting the efforts of local law enforcement, working for policy changes, providing resources, and creating media content for awareness. Focusing on men as both the cause and the solution to the growing tragedy of sex-trafficking is a new and powerful weapon in this seemingly endless war.

Franco has seen the work of House of Cherith expand over the past 10 years from one facility and program in Atlanta to multiple houses in other parts of Georgia and in Dallas and Baltimore. 



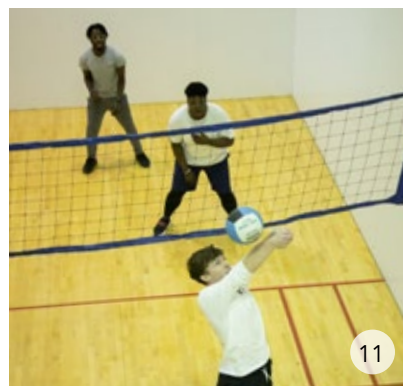
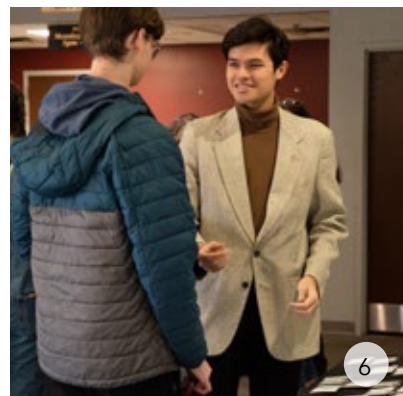
MOST



**City of
Refuge**



**House of
Cherith**





CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

1 Lady Flames Take on The Lynx

The Lee Women's Lacrosse team defeats Rhodes College, 13-8, on Feb. 17.

2 Rockapella Returns

The nation's original acapella superstars, Rockapella, appear for the third time as a Presidential Concert Series guest.

3 Drumming Together

Students and community members celebrate Black History month with an open Drum Circle.

4 Murray Welcomes New Students

Dr. Debbie Murray, provost, welcomes newcomers to campus during January's New Student Orientation.

5 Students Worship During Convocation

Campus Choir leads worship for Spring Convocation.

6 Lee on Display

Prospective students check out campus during a Lee Preview Day full of activities.

7 Blake and Dukes Speak in Chapel

Dr. Chris Blake and Jonathan Dukes speak during an Alternative Chapel service.

8 School of Music Hosts Honor Choir

Over 400 high school students participate and perform in Honor Choir 2024.

9 School of Nursing Holds Innovation Expo

Senior nursing students invent products or policy change to improve health care.

10 Art on Display

Art Exhibitions take place in the new Mayfield Annex Art Gallery.

11 LeeU Rec Hosts All-Nighter

Intramural teams compete during a recent All-Nighter event at the DeVos Rec Center.

12 Flames Baseball vs Southern Wesleyan

The Men's Baseball team split a doubleheader with SWU.

13 Opera Theatre Presents Fairytales

Lee Opera Theatre performs Pinocchio for its annual mainstage production.

14 SOM Presents Faculty Gala

Kristen Holritz, flautist, performs with other faculty instrumentalists and vocalists.



EPHRAIM'S STORY

by Dewayne Thompson '80, DBA



“I had closed my eyes because I was scared of the storm, and all of a sudden, I saw this bright flash and felt my face burning. It knocked me unconscious.” Four-year-old Ephraim Wikelund '18 had little going for him. Residing in an impoverished village, begging for food, and living with relatives due to his biological mother's inability to care for him, Ephraim found himself caught defenseless in a flash thunderstorm and struck by lightning. With no ambulance service, local villagers carried him to the nearest hospital — an hour's walk, requiring a river crossing. Hospital staff presumed him dead on arrival but provisionally began work. The lack of anesthesia brought severe pain as Zambian doctors removed little Ephraim's burned skin and repaired his broken face as best as they could with their limited resources.

Such an experience would cause many of us to give up, but Ephraim's determination prevailed. At an age when most little ones remain completely dependent on their parents, Ephraim was on his own and worked for local villagers to secure basic necessities. He swept yards, fetched water, cut grass with a slasher, and walked long distances to complete errands. At seven years old, he found work on a farm in exchange for housing and food. It was here he met Rodger and Sandra Wikelund, founders of Emma's Kids, who would later become his adoptive parents. The Wikelunds' ministry cares for street children — introducing them to Jesus, feeding them, showing them the possibilities education affords. Ephraim describes his “new chapter in life” this way:

“I was very eager to learn to read, write my name, and do basic math. I carried notebooks in plastic bags and sat on the floor with other village kids. I envisioned having a real classroom, wearing a uniform, and sitting at a desk. These doors started opening after I went to Emma's Kids, where the community school had begun. Later, I started the PACE program, which really helped me to learn quickly. I prepared and wrote Grades 7 and 9 exams. I advanced into the local high school, where I completed and received my diploma. This qualified me to be accepted into Lee University.”

Ephraim knew that a college education would help him realize the dream of escaping an environment defined by poverty and literally begging daily for food for survival.

Yet there were still challenges to overcome. The severity of the burns on Ephraim's face resulted in issues beyond the cosmetic: medical, ophthalmic, and dental attention were necessary to improve Ephraim's quality of life. One plastic surgeon even donated his services to preserve Ephraim's right eye. This brought Ephraim to East Tennessee, where he learned of Lee University. Although he had no financial resources available, he applied and was accepted into Lee's business program in 2014. "Through a variety of miraculous interventions, missions, and hard work, I met several people who helped me pay my way through school." The academic and work opportunities that Lee provided to Ephraim resulted in an unwavering sense of mission: He was going home to make a difference.

"The vision and passion of giving back to the community became clear after graduating from Lee University with a business degree. I felt more equipped and ready to be part of the solution to the problems in Zambia. I used something I learned in Strategic Management: evaluating a problem and finding a solution. I believe that's what entrepreneurship is all about. It used to trouble me to see the young people in the streets of Zambia that had so much potential. I knew to keep them from giving up, I had to do something. This was the beginning of what's now called Building the Community One Step at a Time. Not long ago, I was awarded a certificate as one of the trainers in conservation farming in Zimbabwe, which has helped me in the process of developing the building community project that I've entitled Sustainable Agriculture Development Project in Mufulira, Zambia. The initiative has been designed to address key challenges faced by the region, such as high unemployment rates and the prohibitive costs associated with food exportation due to unfavorable exchange rates. To actualize our vision, we have acquired a strategically located piece of land in Mufulira, which serves as the focal point for our efforts. The project focuses on implementing modern farming techniques to enhance productivity and contribute to the economic development of the community."

In the School of Business, we tell students that business is their platform for ministry, and nothing energizes us quite like students understanding that and viewing their education as ministry; Ephraim is a

shining example. His application of business concepts — strategic planning, operating leverage, organizing, brand building — is now breaking the poverty cycle and addressing food security issues in Mufulira.

Ephraim and his team grow vegetables to sell to individuals, marketeers, and restaurant owners. Corn is of particular importance. The farm supplies it to commercial vendors, such as Olympic Milling, to be ground into nshima (corn meal), a staple of Zambian food. Ephraim tasks his farm manager with strategic planning, decision making, and the alignment of operations with project goals, in hopes that this experience will equip him, and other locals in the future, for increased vocational opportunities. Similarly, a marketer assists in promoting and selling the farm's produce. The laborers who work the farm receive training, too: how to use and maintain farm equipment, how to improve soil preparation, and the like. As food insecurity decreases and training increases, community members are beginning to dream of owning their own farms.

Ephraim's own dreams involve extinguishing poverty on a grander scale via training and job creation for the indigent. Farm-wise, he plans to scale operations, resulting in reduced food prices. The fact that the 500-hectare (1,235 acres) tract of land he aims to purchase will run him \$62,500 does not worry him, so committed is he to diversifying into poultry farming in hopes of further combating food insecurity with a source of protein. In the long term, Ephraim intends to establish a recognizable brand that will gain him credibility across Zambia, helping him achieve favor and access to resources from political and economic leaders. Distributing food at no cost to the underprivileged and to beneficiaries of disaster relief agencies will then be in reach. "Our agricultural development project holds paramount significance in addressing pressing challenges faced by the community and contributes to broader objectives of sustainable development."

It seems clear to me that Ephraim's work is in step with God's will. The Lord created us to have hope (Romans 12:12), to depend on and support each other (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10), and to engage in meaningful work (Genesis 2:15). Ephraim has turned God's blessings of protection and education into all three. §

THE HEART AND SOUL IN SPORTS

*Lee Alums Lead Key Roles with
Fellowship of Christian Athletes*

by Cameron Fisher '84



Using discipleship ministry with the hard-knock, rough and tumble of athletics has its share of challenges, but the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) has proven its effectiveness over the years, growing into the largest sports ministry in the world with chapters in 115 nations.

Success stories are abundant across the spectrum, and three Lee alumni can testify of the powerful influence of FCA, so much that they have given their careers and callings to the ministry, which has been characterized as “The Heart and Soul in Sports.”

“As if I Majored in FCA”

Sarah Smith Gackle '12 remembers her first encounter with FCA as a middle school student in Ooltewah, Tennessee.

“We had an FCA group on campus, and we met on Wednesdays,” Sarah recalled. “My parents raised us in church (but) FCA was where my relationship with Jesus moved past a Sunday faith. I distinctly remember a speaker sharing what Jesus had done for us and asking us to consider what that meant for how we lived our life. That moment marked me, and I surrendered my life to Christ.”



From that day on, Sarah was involved in FCA campus huddles, summer camps, and leadership opportunities through student leadership. While it was never her plan to work for FCA, she felt a call to ministry at age 15.

Enrolling at Lee and majoring in psychology, Sarah said it wasn't until her senior year at Lee that the Lord brought that calling to ministry back around as a vocation. She began as an intern with FCA in Colorado in the fall after her graduation and went full time as an area representative in May of 2013. She served in various roles in Colorado Springs and in Birmingham, Alabama, eventually landing back in the Centennial State.

“I felt a love for the people (of Colorado), beyond what I could have drummed up in myself,” Sarah related. “The Lord had led me to my people, my place, and day-by-day revealed that this was where the He was calling me.”

Today Sarah serves FCA in the Rockies Region as the Regional Vice President of Field Ministry. The Rockies is one of 18 FCA regions and includes Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming.

*A local chaplain requested a set of bibles to offer as an optional gift at chapel.
Not one athlete left his new bible behind.*



When asked why FCA has had such an influence in her career pursuits Sarah said, “I was drawn to FCA because of the emphasis on discipleship. We go to coaches and athletes with the hope of a life-giving relationship with Jesus and we empower student-athletes, coaches, and athletes of all ages to lead...The significance of FCA in my life can’t be overstated. The Lord has revealed Himself and pursued me through the people of FCA.”

Sarah credits significant preparation for where she is today coming from her time spent with Lee University Volleyball.

“Dozens of life and character lessons came through my time on the court and as a team,” she said. “Now that I am serving and guiding (an FCA) team myself, those lessons on trust, alignment, role clarity, and buy-in continue to pay dividends. And as a psychology major with a minor in biblical studies and coaching, it’s as if I majored in FCA!”

To support Sarah, email sgackle@fca.org.



Disguised as a Missionary

Robert Green '00 grew up in Gainesville, Florida, where his life was centered around athletics. In 1981 he came to Christ and found a new community of friends and family in FCA on the local high

school campus. It was there he felt a call to full-time Christian service.

After a four-year stint with the U.S. Army Special Forces which helped pay for his education, he attended Southeastern College while also serving as a full-time student pastor in a local church. In 1997 he and his wife, Teresa, moved to Cleveland, Tennessee, where he accepted the role as student pastor at Westmore Church of God, serving for 13 years. He attended Lee where his professors Jerald Daffe and Don Bowdle stood out as influencers in his major of pastoral ministries, while learning how to shepherd teams and developing a heart for the Great Commission.

While serving at Westmore an opportunity came to pioneer a new FCA office in the region that included four counties. He built a ministry team of 11 staff, reaching 26 schools and a footprint of ministry in Ethiopia. He also served the Lee University baseball team as chaplain.

In 2021, a position opened for the Tennessee State Director, and Robert was selected to now provide guidance across the state of 95 counties from Memphis to Bristol. Under his leadership, he hired 80 new staff, growing the team to 157 and gained significant ground in providing ministry to nearly every middle school, high school, and college campus. The growth and success of Tennessee FCA led to Robert's selection as – like Sarah – a Regional Vice President, his territory being the Southeast Central Region covering four states: Tennessee, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Alabama.





Robert ministers during a 2019 kids sports camp in Kersa, Ethiopia

He serves nearly 400 staff that interact with thousands of athletes and coaches.

“Sport is one of the greatest cultural influencers with 70 million youth from 6-18 years old involved in organized athletics in America,” Robert stated. “When you add the element of being one of a very few Christian clubs allowed on public school campuses, FCA is positioned as a ministry to make a major impact.”

of Jesus is one of the most treasured rewards of his ministry.

“It’s exciting to see a team experience revival in their locker room and then that impact change the culture of entire schools, and out into the community,” Robert said. “We are using sport to reach the unreached around the globe, such as Somali coaches in Africa using a ball to win a village to Christ.”

“We believe, outside of a parent, a coach is the most important influencer in American culture,” Robert said, “and therefore, the two most important words from a student athlete are, ‘Coach says.’ So, FCA wants to know, what is ‘coach’ saying? Is it life giving or life draining? FCA comes alongside the coach and helps them develop plans to ‘coach the heart behind the jersey.’” Robert says witnessing coaches and athletes who see their platform as an opportunity to share the good news

Robert concluded his thoughts by saying, “I would have never dreamed God would take something I love – athletics - and use it as the vehicle for ministry in my life. For years I thought full-time Christian service could only take place behind a pulpit, but I have found the most transformational ministry happens in locker rooms and coaches’ offices. I recently had a coach say, ‘I’m really a missionary disguised as a coach with a whistle around my neck.’ We are all missionaries, disguised as whatever we do!”

To support Robert, email rgreen@fca.org.

Robert coordinated the highly successful Fields of Faith outreach event.





allowed creative risk-taking that would never have been possible in the commercial world.”

As FCA grew and the role of media became more important, Michael was asked to consider creating a role within the ministry. It was a no-brainer. He has been full time with FCA for over five years serving as the Director of Media.

“It’s been the most satisfying and challenging work yet with the best teammates one could ever hope to serve alongside,” Michael said. “I love working with the coaches, athletes, staff, volunteers, and donors of FCA. There’s such an authenticity in the culture that transcends any divisiveness the world can throw at us. It really feels like the kingdom of heaven when we come together.”

Michael credits his time at Lee as “God truly preparing me, not just for my current role but the journey that brought me (to FCA). Beyond the academics and wonderful relationships with both students and instructors, I found opportunities for leadership to be incredible.

“It’s Like the Kingdom of Heaven!”

After Lee and his studies in film at Regent university, Michael Hodges ’98, created a media company that focused on commercials and other specialized media campaigns. He produced and directed for some of the largest ad agencies in the world. While it was challenging, fun, and creative work, he realized that his favorite client ended up also being his only non-profit client: Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

“I got involved in FCA when I was invited to serve on an exploratory board in the early 2000s with their national leaders,” Michael said. “I found like-minded and competitive Christians with a God-sized mission and an ocean of opportunity that really excited me. It felt very different than my previous forays into non-profit and ministry work, and God was clearly moving in some interesting ways.”

“I enjoyed the freedom of selling ideas (rather than products) and it was much more satisfying having God as the ultimate client. It

***Michael has served as
Director of Media for FCA
for the last five years.***

I worked with Dr. Paul Conn ’67 at the time as he began using media more and more to share the vision of what Lee could and would ultimately become. I didn’t realize it at the time but that really shaped me in understanding not just how you cast a vision but, ultimately, understanding and conveying why you are casting that vision.” §





BRINGING WATER TO NICARAGUA

During Missions Week in October 2023, Lee University raised enough money to sponsor a clean water well in Nagarote, Nicaragua. A Global Perspectives team traveled to Nicaragua over Spring Break to drill and dedicate that well on behalf of Lee University and in partnership with Church of God World Missions. The trip was led by Dr. Steven Hall, associate professor of pastoral ministry at Lee, along with his wife LaDon. The Lee group was joined by Lee alum Vince Hungate, who brought 15 Ohio State University students to partner with Lee's endeavor. The team set up a base camp in the remote fishing village of El Transito. They visited local schools to serve food and share songs in classes. They visited the homes of indigenous people, learned about the water crisis, washed their clothes in the same place and way the locals did, embarked on an ocean fishing excursion, visited tide pools, and learned to surf from three-time Nicaraguan National Champion Elton Sanchez. They also visited the historical capital of Nicaragua, Leon, and while there, toured the city center square and National Cathedral. The team worked daily on the well, contributing where they could in the drilling process. At the end of the week, they dedicated the well on the Church of God site with the pastor and community leaders on behalf of Lee University.







"After visiting the villages in Nicaragua, I left with a simple conviction. The people there are created fundamentally the same as me. Though it is true that the end of the day, they go home to dirt floors and uncertain futures and I to my insulated and well-furnished house, we are all children of the same God who is just as faithful to me as He is to them. That struck me as profound and something I will never forget."

- Sarah Cate, nursing major





A group of baseball players in white pinstriped uniforms and red visors with "FLAMES" written on them are huddled together, pointing their fingers towards the center. The background is a blurred orange field.

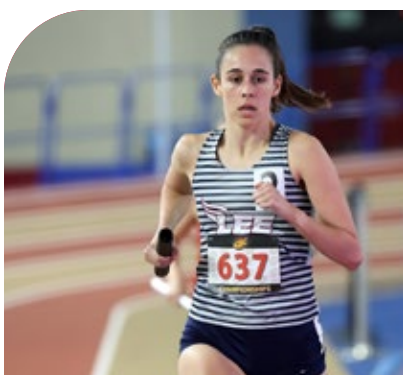
LEE SPORTS IN THE HEADLINES



*Lady Flames win 5th
Straight GSC Indoor
Track and Field Title*



*Kassen Captures
Top GSC Field
Athlete Honor*



*Cavanaugh Named
GSC Indoor Track
Athlete of the Year*



*Athletics
Announces
Inaugural Give
Day on April 23*



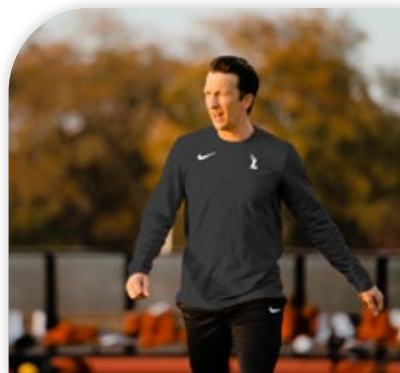
*Flames Claim
Program's Third GSC
Indoor Track and
Field Championship*



*Hampton Garners
First Team All-
GSC Recognition*



*Hendricks Earns
First Team All-GSC
Honor*



*Lee Hughes
Chosen to Lead
Women's Soccer
Program*



*Lee Ranked 14th
Nationally in
Learfield Directors'
Cup Standings*



*Rowe Achieves
Milestone 500th
Win at Lee*



*Morgan Named
GSC Indoor Track
and Field Coach of
the Year*



LeeUniversityFlames



@LeeUFlames



LeeUFlames

FLAMES IN THE BIG LEAGUES



Lee University Baseball will be well represented this Major League Baseball season as former Flames Lance Zawadzki, Drew French, Logan Workman '21, and Alan Zhang Carter '21 appear on Big League rosters.

God created a season where we can view the beautiful blooming of flowers and trees. He also allows us to produce bright green grass for our lawns and playing fields. The smell of the freshly cut grass is a special gift and helps remind us springtime has officially arrived.

For millions who enjoy the game of baseball, it is also the time of the year when we hear the famous yell of "Play Ball" from umpires on all levels, including Major League Baseball.

Lee University Baseball will be well represented when the first pitch is officially thrown out. It all began when then Lee President Dr. Paul Conn '67 decided it was time to reinstate the program back in 1996 and hired Dr. David Altopp. It did not take long for professional team scouts to realize the Flames were turning out top-notch talent, and the level grew even higher when current head coach Mark Brew '01 took the reign in 2007.

Many Flames jumped at the opportunity to sign with professional teams. There have been those who spent time at the big-league level, and others working their way up. There were those who had their careers sidelined with injuries, and there were those who figured the long bus rides and the pay for minor league players was not enough. Others had that certain young lady waiting and figured it was time to get married, settle down, and raise a family.

It is an exciting time for former Lee pitchers Logan Workman and Alan Carter, who are wrapping up another spring training as they work their way up to the "Big Show." Lance Zawadzki was an All-American shortstop for the Flames, and Drew French is an ex-Lee pitching coach. Both are now on the coaching staff of Big-League teams.

LOGAN WORKMAN

After an outstanding high school career at Soddy-Daisy High School, Workman became a mainstay for the Lee pitching staff. He completed his college career in 2021 and was then drafted and signed with the Tampa Bay Rays.

Logan has steadily moved up in the minor leagues with the Rays. Last season he suffered an injury as he began the season with the Double-AA Montgomery, Alabama. Biscuits, but after a rehab session, he came back to post solid numbers and was sent to Arizona to pitch in the Arizona Fall League.

All the 30 teams in Major League Baseball sent players to the Arizona Fall League. Workman said he pitched against several players who were labeled as top prospects in their Major League organization.

Of course, one of his biggest thrills to date came last spring when the Tampa Bay staff took Logan down to the Yankee spring training stadium, and he pitched for three innings against the top New York hitter.

Workman was invited to take part in the Rays' Big League spring training camp this year and likely is headed back to the Montgomery team to begin the new regular season.

"Things are going well. I am working my way through and learning from everyone during the camp. No big changes, still on the same path, but seeing bigger opportunities. I am in training with our top players here," Workman pointed out during conversation while still in camp.

Tampa Bay has always been known for turning out quality pitchers and getting them ready for their Big-League staff or trading the pitchers for hitters and fielders on other teams. Workman said, "It is always the hope and goal to reach the Majors, with the Rays or another team. I think it is doable and what I want for my future."

He added he had not seen Zawadzki or French during spring training as the Rays play against the different teams in several Florida locations. “I have not gotten to see them, but hopefully I can see them one day in the Big Leagues.”

LANCE ZAWADZKI

Zawadzki will work directly with A.J. Hinch as the assistant hitting coach for the Detroit Tigers. Hinch will begin his fourth season as manager of the Tigers, and he recently signed a contract extension with Detroit.

Lance joined Lee as a transfer from the San Diego State University program during the 2006-07 season. Before leaving the San Diego State team he is reported to have been the first player to hit a ball off the wall at the newly opened Petco Park, home of the San Diego Padres.

The shortstop helped lead the Flames to their first trip to the 2007 NAIA World Series. “Lance was a tremendous player for us and arguably one of the best Flames ever,” remarked Lee head coach Mark Brew. “His professional playing career landed him in multiple organizations and was highlighted with a call up to the Major Leagues with the San Diego Padres on May 2, 2010.”

Brew noted that Lance moved into the coaching world and quickly found success in the Red Sox organization as a hitting coach and later a hitting coordinator for the Red Sox minor league system. “It’s no surprise to us at Lee that he has once again landed on the MLB stage as an assistant hitting coach for the Tigers.

“He is a tremendous teacher of the game and has great ability to connect with hitters through his experience as a professional athlete. He is a super person, and I am excited for Lance and his family for this great opportunity,” the Lee coach concluded.

DREW FRENCH

French was Lee’s pitching coach during the 2014 and 2015 seasons, and he is now the head pitching coach with the Baltimore Orioles.

French was hired by the Houston Astros as a minor league pitching coach in December of 2015. He worked in the Astros’ organization from 2016-20, which included serving as Triple-A Round Rock’s pitching coach in 2019. He also worked at the club’s alternate training site during the pandemic-shortened 2020 campaign.

He left the Astros and was with the Atlanta Braves (bullpen coach) through 2021. The Braves won the World Series Championship during his first year on the staff.

“Drew was a tremendous pitching coach and pitching mind when he was on our staff,” pointed out Coach Brew. “He always had great material and ability to teach our guys with information beyond the collegiate level.

“He has had made a fast ascent through the MLB world from minor league pitching coach, to Braves bullpen coach, to now his position as the head pitching coach with the Baltimore Orioles.”

Drew has been a part of some great organizations with the Astros and Braves that have enjoyed great success in recent years and now he’s joining an organization that’s coming off a season winning 101 games. (He replaces Chris Holt as manager Brandon Hyde’s pitching coach in 2024.)

ALAN ZHANG CARTER

The professional baseball journey continues for the former Lee pitcher. Nothing has come easy as he has battled his way back from surgery and building the speed back on his fastball to where it once was.

After spending a successful summer in the Colligate Summer League, Carter played for China in the World Baseball Games. He signed his first professional contract with the Los Angeles Angels and played for the Inland Empire 76ers. From there Alan spent time in Double-A with Huntsville (Alabama) Rocket City Trash Pandas. This past year he signed with the Toronto Blue Jays and will pitch in High-A with the Vancouver Canadians. §



Alan Zhang Carter



Drew French



Logan Workman



Lance Zawadzki



A CHANCELLOR'S VIEWPOINT:

WHEN YOUR MAMA CALLS, YOU SAY "YES"!

When you read this, it will be only a week before I will become president of Lee once again. This time, it won't be for thirty-four years; I have accepted a term for one year only, beginning on May 5.

Why would I be doing this? I left the president's office four years ago, and certainly have never expected nor intended to return. During those four years, I have maintained the habits I've had for fifty years – waking every morning eager to get to campus and dreaming constantly of what Lee can become. I believe I've found a way to make a contribution from the office of the chancellor, and I expected to keep working hard in that role.

I stayed at Lee and always intend to be here. To quote the words of a famous football coach who recently resigned: "I have nothing more to prove, but I have lots more to give."

But circumstances changed. When Dr. Mark Walker decided not to serve a second term, the Board of Directors needed someone who could step in immediately and lead Lee through the tough period we are in. They asked me if I would become president again for a year, to stabilize our situation and begin looking for the next long-term leader.

I couldn't respond to them until I had talked it over with Darlia. If she wasn't on board, I wasn't on board. But she didn't even hesitate. "We've spent our whole lives trying to build Lee into what God wants it to be, and if one more year will make a difference, I'm all in."

So here we go again. Although this wasn't in our plans, we have embraced the challenge, and we can already feel the hand of God on us to lead Lee. We are facing some challenges, for sure, but Lee is such an exceptional place, with so many talented, committed faculty and staff, so many energetic, capable students, and tens of thousands of alumni who wish us well and are standing by to help.

Alma mater: "our mother". And when your Mama calls, you say "yes." Please stand with us, pray for us, and let us know that you, too, care deeply about this place we all once called home. We need that from you; Lee needs that from you!



Paul Conn '67



2023 DONORS



\$100,000+

Paul and Darlia Conn
Ray and Joan Conn
Stephen and Judy Holt
Charles and Catherine Sewell

\$50,000-\$99,999

Bill and Trish Bellah
Mark and Kristie Ells
Cyndi and Randy Joiner

\$25,000-\$49,999

Marty and Patty Baker
Ann Lay
Jerry and Janice Madden
Darrell and Pam Spell
David and Debi Tinsley
Mark and Udella Walker

\$10,000-\$24,999

Laura and Andy Anderson
Aric and Stephanie Austin
Sharon K. Brown
James and Genie Byrd
Ron and Dianne Dillingham
Nick and Sandy Humble
Carsan Humble
Jaxon Humble
Lavinia Johnston
Summerfield and Gill Johnston
Ken and Donna Jones
Nina Lewis
Wade and Kimberly Lombard
Carolyn Medlin
Matthew Miller
Brad and Missy Moffett
Larry and Rhonda Parker
Barry and Iris Ray
Jerry and Andrea Rooker
John Sanchez
Eleanor Sheeks
Lew Starling
Scott Taylor
Jerald Wilson
Tina Winborne

\$5,000-\$9,999

Ty Abernathy
Keith and Natasha Barnett
Emmitt and Heidi Beall
Jake and Karol Brigham
Nicholas and Emily Brown
Herb and Hariett Cannon
Bernie and Sue Collins
N. Leo Daughtry
Alan and Beckie Droege
Kay Ehlinger
Carmen Guerrero
Daryl Hammett
J. Nelson and Deanne Irvine
Bob and Carol Johnson
Candy Kruesi
Jake and Kelli Lovelace
Donna Maynard
Shawn McFarland
Kevin and Amy McGlamery
Tom Payne
John and Joan Perez
Virginia Peters
Herman and Sandra Ramsey
Darrell and Marsha Rice
Murray and Kathy Rice

Mary Helen Seago
Marty and Jennifer Smith
Tim and Tammy Stone
Phillip and Dale Thomas
Claude and Camilla Warren
Randle and Hope Weeks
Justin and Melia Younger

\$3,000-\$4,999

Susan and Delmon Ashcraft
Kenneth and LaJuana Atkins
Joshua and Michaelia Black
Perry and Cheryl Bugg
Herbert Buie
Chad Carter
Wade and Teresa Chien
Hector Diaz
Hannah Folmar
David Franklin
Stephanie Gardner
Jeff and Kerri Greenway

Craig Hagmaier
Karen Hanks
Michael and Amy Harrison
Loretta Hickey
Jill Higdon
Suzanne and David Holt
Margaret Hudson
Lloyd Miller
Ray and Myra Miller
Ethan Moss
Danny and Debbie Murray
Terry O'Bannon

Kevin and Dianna Odell
Eddie and Trinity Pearson
Joe and Peggy Pesterfield
Dennis Purvis
J. Dudley Pyeatt, Jr.
Veva Rose
Bedford and Willa Smith
Grady and Dede Townsend
Christopher and Lori West
Billy and Vickie Williams
Jim Winters
Matthew and Emily Young

\$1,000-\$2,999

Mary Adams
Delton and Myrna Alford
Doug and Amy Arvin
Bryan and Yvette Ashe
Mark and Elizabeth Bailey
Rodger and Dayna Beal
Oral and Dee Beason
Bob and Nora Bernhardt
Robert and Laura Billue
Steve and Polly Black
David Blackmon
Desmond and Jill Blue
Brannon and La-Juan Bradford
Steve and Wendy Bratteli
Gale Breckenridge
Mark and Rachel Brew
Jason Brown
Tony and Heather Byrd
Christopher and Erica Camp
Thomas and Andrea Brown
Bob and Susan Card
Elnore Carlisle
Tracey Carlson
Larry and Cherri Carpenter
Patricia Carroll
Blayne and Carolyn Carroll
Leonard and Cynthia Carroll, Jr.

Michael and Vickie Cary
Gary and Robin Cole
Herschel and Regenia Collier
Chris and Angie Conine
DeSha Conn
Brian and Kelly Conn
Bonnie Cornelison
Bill and Judy Cripps
John and Rhonda Criss
Larry and Beth Crooms
Terry and Linda Cross
James Cross
Patricia A. Daniel
Robert and Pat Daugherty
Allen and Leecy Davis
Paul and Kelly DeLaLuz
Constance Demkowicz
Andrew and Marbi DiPastena
Martha Dismukes
Theodore and Jessica Dockrey
Paul and Tannis Duncan
Victoria Eachus
Jim and Penny Edwards
Jean Eledge
William and Sandra Eubanks
Danny Fainter
Chamber Family

Theodore Feintuch
Jacquilyn Fennema
Bob and Kim Fisher
Cameron and Donna Fisher
Abby Fletcher
Donnie and Pamela Floyd
April Ford Peterson
Jon and Christine Forehand
Sarah Foster
Ashley Freer
Frank and Andrea Garrison
Jeffrey and Monica Gefter
Marlene Geren
Conner and Erica Gerry
Debra and Donald Gladden
Nadine Goff
Duane and Candace Goff
William and Twyla Green
Ray and Maryellen Greene
Shane and Alison Griffith
Chad and Laura Guyton
Jordan Halsey
Jerome and Vanessa Hammond
Hugo and Letha Hammond
Allan and Shauna Hardin
O.T. Hargrave
Al and Aline Hartgraves

Steve and Jennifer Hartline
Michael and Jodie Hayes
Chris and Mandy Haynes
Robin Hicks
David and Tami Hicks
Andy and Jo Ann Higginbotham
Allan and Jana Hill
Greg and Holly Hodge
Kevin and Andrea Hudson
Dale and Brenda Hughes
Philip and Audra Iannarone
Chad and Stephanie James
Elaine Jeveli
BJ and Kristin Johnson
Fijoy and Marie Johnson
Brian and Helen Johnson
Mark and Beverly Johnson
Blake and Katie Joiner
Farrin and Judy Kahoe
Jonathan and Kristin Kerley
Dewayne and Jane Knight
Russell Kraus
Doris La Mar
David and Nancy LaBine
Herb and Carol Lackey
William and Angela Lamb
Duane Lambert
Ollie and Ruth Lee
Andrew and Esmerelda Lee
Joselyn Lee
Tim Lee
Wayne and Sharon Lombard
John Lunnen
Jon and Judy Luttrell
Kyle and Jessica Lymberopoulos
Gary and Karen Lynn
Martha Mackey
Jesse Mathews
Scott and Michelle Maucere
Walt and Tammie Mauldin
Andrea McCay
Jim and Janet McClain
Barbara McCullough
Kay McLendon
Byron and Lisa Medlin
Debbie Melton
Glenn Metzler

David Miller
Olan Mills
Morgan Moffett
Matthew and Kelley Mond
Deaderick and Cannon Montague
Rickie and Jean Moore
Louis Morgan
Jesse Morgan
James Carlton Morton
Leonard Murray
John and Christine Nee
Elizabeth and Jerele Neeld
Mallory and Carla Nimocks
Phillip and Kendra Nitz
Helen Obenchain-Clark
Ralph and Beth Osborne
Greg Osko
Duane and Elizabeth Pace
E Dale Parker
Kathleen Patterson
Ben and Carmen Perez
J.J. Perez
Randall Phillips
Jenny Pruitt
Brandon and Bethany Ramsey
Paul and Cara Rankin
Joshua and Johnna Rice
Jack and Laurie Richmond
Gary and Jodi Riggins
Milton and Lois Riley
Landon and Lorinda Roberts
Grey and Linda Robinson
Jason and Faith Robinson
Earl and Kathy Rowan
Marcia Rucks
Jeff and April Salyer
Alex and Kattie Sandoval
Kay Sanford
Jeff and Beth Sargent
Bill and Yvonne Schmidt
David and Vicki Schneider
Brad and Cameron Sedgwick
Randy and Debbie Sheeks
Charles Shelton
Scott and Elizabeth Sheppard
Tom and Elena Shirley
Donald and Patricia Simecka

Bill and Lenae Simmons
Billy and Laura Singletary
David and Merial Smartt
Henry and Betty* Smith
Cody and Taylor Smith
Barbara Smith
Jason and Aubrie Spangler
Joann Squires
Alex and Shawna Staup
David and Joyce Stephens
Lynn Stone
Ed and Sherri Stone
Hoyt Stone
Cole and Ashley Strong
Robin and Stephanie Taylor
Dewayne and Cathy Thompson
Madison and Vanessa Torrence
Scott and Lauranne Traister
Vivian Turpin
Edward Tyner
Jayson VanHook
Lamar and Vickie Vest
Roland and Rona Vines
Don Walker
Jimmy Walker
Kevin and Deven Wallace
Don and Judy Warrington
Zeke and Emily Watson
Clayton and Linette Watson
Clint and Glenda Weinert
Sue Wells
Joni Whetstone
Billy and LeAllison Whittinghill
Paul Whittington
Byron and Riley Whittington
Jared and Stacey Wielfaert
Charles and Linda Wilkerson, Jr.
Boyd and Carolyn Williams
Warren and Peggy Wilson
Dan and Mary Winters
Brad Winters
Josh and Stacey York
James and Cherrie Yother
Steve and Beth Younker

\$500-\$999

Betty Adams
 John Anderson
 Jeff and Teresa Bartels
 Ken and Judy Beard
 Joyce Blankenbaker
 Donald F. Bodine
 Frank and Debby Bodine
 Bill and Jola Burch
 Jeremy and Julie Burchfield
 Bob and Linda Burris
 Timothy and Marnee Byrd
 Clark and Kristen Campbell
 Allison Campbell
 Sally Carlson
 Todd and Joy Chambley
 Frank Clement
 Zachary and Christina Clevenger
 Gene and Patricia Cobb
 Phyllis Crabtree
 Rolando and Ruth Cuellar
 Andrea Dismukes
 Chidinma Ekeiwu
 Justin Frazier
 Charles and Janna Fults
 Felix Garcia
 Scott and Jennifer Gebbie
 Cary and Marcia Gilbert
 Patricia Gilliam
 David and Kendra Gray
 Mike and Misty Harden
 Justin and McKenna Harmon

Douglas and Mimi Hedwig
 Timothy Hoffman
 Michael and Luann Holden
 Sean and Erin Holland
 Dion Holmes
 Ray and Anita Hughes
 Richie and Stephanie Hughes
 Don and Maxine Hughes
 Bill and Kathy Jaber
 Christopher and Noel Jenkins
 Regina Johnson
 David and Elizabeth Johnston
 Nancy Jolley
 Danny and Linda Keller
 Larry Krause
 Justin and Ann-Morgan Krueger
 Joel Lange
 Mark and Lauren Lawrence
 Bill and Suzanne Macy
 Steve and Cheris Madison
 Jason Marion
 Matt Mayberry
 Paul McCord
 Jared and Hillary McDaniel
 Kley McGowan
 Eliana Miller
 Robert and Kim Moffett
 Hugh and Jean Moore
 Chris and Sarah Moree
 Joel and Charlotte Morehead
 Dan* and Sandy Morehead

Cary Odom
 Jordan and Holly Perleoni
 Foster Phillips
 Taz Randles
 Gary and Anita Ray
 Kim Roberts
 James Rogers
 Stephen Sherman
 Michael and Denise Simco
 Andy Sinclair
 Jason Snell
 Joe Stamper
 Bernard Stansky
 Pat and Barb Stroh
 Richard Swanker
 Treva Tankard
 Verneque Thompson
 Whitney Till
 Adam and Tina Tripp
 Nate and Stacey Tucker
 Caitlyn Turner
 Michael and Rebecca VanHook
 Stan Whitmire
 Fred Wiechmann
 Rebecca Williams
 Bill and Karen Winters
 Del and Anna Wright
 Jonathan Xu
 Emily Yamazaki

\$100-\$499

Wanda Abbott
 Mary Aiken
 Douglas Allen
 Jewel Allen
 David and Phyllis Altopp
 W.E.B Andrews
 Felix Arambula
 Wayne Arant
 Scott Arnold

John and Carolyn Austin
 Danielle Ayan
 Erin Bailey
 Benjamin Bain
 Marla Baker
 Michael Ballew
 Phillip Barnett
 Joshua and Megan Barrett
 Gregory and Teresa Bass

Bob and Terrie Bayles
 Walter and Linda Bazemore
 Kari Beard
 Jonathan Beatty
 Brent and Tiffany Begley
 Terry and Debby Bell
 Michael and Tera Bernard
 Robert Berry
 Don Bird

Vickie Bivens
Kevin and Dawn Bixler
Adam and Lauren Blackwell
Janet Blair
James Blair
Carla Blanchard
Dirk and Lee Bloom
Lisa Boatright
Ken and Cindy Bolin
Paul Bolt
Gale Bowen
Ronald and Mary Braam
Scot Bradford
Janet Brazee
Daphne Brennen
Norleen Brinson
Tony and Gwen Brock
Lindsey Brower
Dianne Brown
Ed Brown
Andra Brown
Scott Brown
Sharon Cary Brown
Michele Burdick
Whitney and Tracey Burgiss
James Burkett
Stephen Burton
Katie Butler
William Campbell
Dale and Glenda Cannada
Edmund Capparucci
Corinne Carollo
Jim Chamberlain
Sonny and Peggy Chambley
Robert Chaput
Brandon Chatfield
Kevin Christian
Tim and Amy Clark
William and Mica Clark
Janice Clary-Back
Kay Collins
Linda Collins
Jonathan and Jennifer Cornett
Tommy Cox
James and Kimberly Creasman
Jean Crichton
Louie and Janet Culpepper

Bradley and Heather Cunningham
John and Karen Curtis
Martha Dale
Duane and Rene Dansby
James Daugherty
Olivia Davila
Dawn Davis
Kevan Dean
Alan and Joanne Dean
Tony and Suzy Deaton
Rob and Gudrun Debelak
Russ and Grace Delatour
Michael and Courtney DeLay
Paul and Sue DeMersseman
Jamie Dennis
Glenn and Wanda Dent
Sherry Dibble
Michael and Marian Dill
Elmer Drew
Melba Drew
Deborah Duffey
DeAnna Dunbar
Curtis and Joanna Duncan
David Duncan
Regina Durkan
Elizabeth Eachus
Miriam Eachus
Seth Eachus
Randy and Deana Eaton
Linda Ebrite
Sherry Edwards
Michael and Cynthia Edwards
Michael and Wynell Ellis
Melanie Elrod
Howard and Regina Ensley
George Ethridge
Melanie Falkenberg
Mike Farrell
Wayne and Karen Fauber
Shayn Fernandez
Sylvia Fincher
Eric and Joyce Folk
Ryan and Aimee Fox
Kimberly Frakes
Annenette Frank
Stephanie Frieburg
Alana Fulmer

Gary Gabbard
John and Sherrie Gadau
Dianne Gaddy
David and Linda Galloway
Selena Galmon
Marquita Gates
Ted and Judy Gee
Casey Gellerman
David and Tamara Gibson
Tony and Ginger Gobble
Travis and Kristine Godfrey
Jeff Golden
Carol Goldfarb
Jeffrey Golding
Jim Good
Grace Goodman
Dan Grady
Len and Brenda Graham
April Greene
Ken and Becky Guthrie
Scott Hager
Kevin and Melissa Halpin
Joseph Harris
Phil and Evie Harris
Shirley Hartwick
Ron and Linda* Harvard
Barbara Harvard
Sam Hasty
Mara Hayes
Cecilia Hebbard
Brian Heller
Stephanie Henderson
William Henning
Harriette Hereford
Robert and Diane Herron
Frank Herzog
Edward and Rachel Hicks
Jym and Toni Hitte
Kenneth Hockless
Kevin Hofer
Linda Holekamp
Peggy Holeva
Scot Holman
Benjamin Holmes
Rebecca Hood
Amber Hoskins
Beverly Houghton

\$100-\$499 *continued*

Sonny and Sarah Howell
James Hubbard
James Hudson
Patsy Huff
Doc Hughes
Jan Hughes
Jack Hughes
Jessica Insco
Douglas Jackson
Patrick James
Don and Becky Jenkins
Jefferey Jennings
Arden and Denise Jensen
James and Avannah Jent
Eleanor Jerman
Hugh Johnson
Randy and Laurie Johnson
Jimmy F. Johnson
Neal Joseph
Diana Kausch
Gail Kent
Derrick and Beth Kinsey
Cameron Knight
Misty Kopecki
Joseph and Ansley Koza
Ed and Marilyn Kramer
Daniel and Bella Krecklow
Wayne Kreider
Jason and Sarah Kremkau
Kirk and Cindi Kruse
Nissy Kurian-Shajan
Sue Lake
Brenda Lambert
Nel Landreth
Missy Landrey
Sara Landrum
Joshua Lange
Paulette Langwith
Gregory and Jeana Lanter
Larysa Latyshava
Ross and Deana Laudner
Donald and Shannon LeRoy
Douglas and Wanda Leroy
Sandi Lewis

Charlton and Paulette Lewis
Tim Lewis
Jessica Lietzan
Glenn and Beth Lillycrop
Tobin and Debbi Lippert
Tony and Shirleen Lombard
Lisa and Larry Long
Dulce Lora
Ruth Lott
Douglas Luzier
Ruth MacDonald
Mitch and Sharon Maloney
Anne Marlow
Derrick and Cynthia Marr
Chris Martin
Derrell Martin
Norris Martin
Glenda Mason
Allan and Valerie Mathura
Shauna Mattingly
John and Jayne Maupin
Clara Maxcy
Misti Mayo
Sam and Beverly Maze
Carl Nicholas and Bethany Maz-
zocca
Philip and Erin McClarty
Janice McClung
Hunter McCord
Anthony McDaniel
Kelsey McGowen
Richard McIntyre
Jessica McIntyre
Judy McKibbin
Derryck McLuhan
Mike and Debi McMahan
Sam McReynolds
Markus Mehr
Michelle Middleton
Michael Mills
Jennifer and Anthony Minutolo
Dan and Betty Moore
Philip Morehead
Clifton Morehead

Jack and Mary Margaret Morris
Dick Morris
Shannon Morton
Brenda Neely
Owen Neely
Marvin Neill
Ray and Pamela Newton
Jimmy and Patricia Nichols
Louisa Nicholson
Suzanne Nimocks
Dennis Noland
Adam Noll
Barbara Noyes
Scott Odell
Franklin and Darlene Odom
Jim and Joyce Odom
Doris Osmus
Kathryn Overholt
Denise Owens
Dennis and Judy Page
Tony Pappas
Sharon Parmelee
Randall and Rhonda Parris
Marc and Carol Pasteris
Jim and Kelly Petty
Kevin and Ashley Petty
Daniel Phillips
Danielle Phillips
Jenn Pittman
Natalie Pope
Anthony and Teresa Pope
Stacie Potts
Chad Price
Christa Prill
Delores L. Pritchett
Timothy and Melisa Rader
Laura Read
Jason and Maria Reeves
William Reid
Arthur and Angela Rhodes
Tyrone and Gloria Richmond
Anita Ricketson
Harmon Roberts
Jeffrey and Carla Robinson

Ginger Robinson
S Rocco
Brandon and Betsey Rodgers
Sherron Rodgers
David and Kim Roebuck
Derek and Carie Roncin
Greta Rowe
Gregory and Emily Russell
Gary Sams
Ray and Kathy Sanders
Christopher and Kim Schall
Lawrence Schuster
John Serrano
H.P. and Jeanette Sessoms
Stephen Shelton
David Smith
Dorothy Smith
Glenda Smith
Helen Smith
Jennifer Smith
Joy Smith
Margaret Smith
R T Smith
Robert Smith
Israel Soza
Ralph Stancil
Larry and Connie Stanfield
Anthony Staraitis
Matthew and Kaye Starosciak
Ted Starosciak
Jon and Meghan Steen
Joe Stefanick

Matthew and Aimee Stefanick
Christopher and Lisa Stephenson
Jerry and Rebecca Stevens
Patricia Stevens
Judith Stewart
David Stieglitz
Randy Stripling
Betsy Sullivan
Donna and Terry Summerlin
Avie Swafford
Joshua Swafford
Judy Swafford
Tom Swafford
Benjamin and Bobbi Sweeney
Jan Taylor
Reba Terry
Mark Terry
Carolyn teVelde
Hailey Thompson
Larry and Janice Timmerman
Vanessa Todhunter
Molly Tonnies
Sharon Toothman
David Torres
Megan Tresh
Laura Trew
Adam and Rachel Tyson
John Underwood
Richard and Linda Ussery
Betty Varner
Benson and Cathy Vaughan
Laud and Pamela Vaught

Gregory Vawter
Jay and Jamie Vecsey
Gerica Vestal
Diana Via
Michael and Lynette Vogt
Sherry Wade
Maxine Wagner
Barry and Pamela Wagoner
Elias and Sarah Wangaard
Beth Wassef
Fred and Karin Watson
Cameron and Rebekah Weatherford
Vicky Welch
Deborah Wheeler
Nathanael and Angela White
Chad Wilkinson
Renee Williams
Bobby and Wanda Williams
Edgar Williamson
Katherine Willingham
Amanda Willson
Nathan and Lauren Wilson
Deborah Winfield
Scott and Jennifer Winne
Joan Wiseman
Martha Wong
Hope Wright
Sara Young
Wade Young
John and Deborah Youngblood
David and Danielle Zopf

Thank you.





OH, THE PLACES THEY WILL GO

*by Susan Ashcraft '87, PhD
Professor of Psychology*

*ALUMNI IN THE WESTERN UNITED STATES
Part IX in a series highlighting alumni in their "Life after Lee."*

In this edition of our popular series, we travel west. Known for rugged landscapes, magnificent national parks, picturesque lakes and rivers, and countless opportunities for living life in the great outdoors, the great states of Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming have much to offer our alumni who call them home. So, let's go West, Flames!



CHAD '10 & STEPHANIE TODD '12 JAMES

Chad and Stephanie met in the fall semester of 2009 in Professor Jeff Golden's '94 history class. Chad graduated in 2010 with a degree in business administration and stayed local, working for Life Care Centers of America. After Stephanie graduated in 2012 with her degree in public relations, the couple married and moved to Colorado. Currently, Chad is the senior vice president of operations for MorningStar Senior Living. Stephanie is a mortgage loan officer with Supreme Lending and a major advocate of the au pair program.

When asked about Lee in retrospect, Chad and Stephanie's enthusiastic reply was, "We would go back tomorrow! We love Lee, the south (specifically, Cleveland), the people, and the mission of Lee University. In the past few years, we have made visiting Cleveland a priority to see the people and school we love."

The James' believe their time at Lee was instrumental in preparing them for their future. Both

collegiate athletes, Stephanie played volleyball, and Chad played basketball for the Flames.

Stephanie: "Chapel and the Christian education set the stage for our priorities in life and gave us a strong moral foundation. When you are in a school environment that points everything back to Christ, it becomes your baseline if it wasn't already. We feel joyfully indebted to Lee forever! And we both have incredible sports memories, from the Flames basketball team beating the #1 ranked team in the nation at the buzzer to the Lady Flames volleyball team making the Final Four, three years consecutively.

Chad: "Coach Tommy Brown was instrumental in my character development and helped me build a foundation of leadership. Dr. Dewayne Thompson '80 and Dr. Shane Griffith '96 both had a profound impact on my career choice. Thompson advised me to pursue Senior Living, which led me to professional development and influence in an organization guided by faith-based principles. I learned that mission and ministry can coexist in business."

Stephanie: Coaches Andrea '84 and Kevin Hudson '95 were unlike any coaches I had ever known. They were committed to molding God-centered, academically focused, respectful, and always-on-time women. And my classroom experience with Dr. Susan Ashcraft '87 greatly impacted me as well."

Chad: "Our life is beautifully full! We give thanks every day for our children: Presley (7), Josiah (5), and Jesse (3). We have found a wonderful God-fearing church and continue to grow closer to Jesus through the written Word. The most challenging aspect of life after Lee has been our thirties. Life can easily get swallowed up with the juggling of careers, parenting, cleaning, homeschooling, time with the Lord, working out, and adventure. There is such a harmony to being present and invested, while also excelling. Our kids are small

and close together. We decided to leave the traditional education system/daycare and bring our kids back into the home. We have an awesome au pair from South Africa (best decision ever), and Stephanie is now homeschooling the children.”

And the James family is growing once again. Chad and Stephanie are in the process of adopting two children from South Africa. They request our prayers as they prepare for this new season in life.

KHALE LENHART ‘06



After graduating from Lee, Khale headed to Harvard Law School.

“The easy route at schools like Harvard is to go into ‘big law’ firms in New York or San Francisco, but it soon become clear that the big law life and the major cities were not where I wanted to be. As a result, I ended up clerking at a firm in Cheyenne and that turned into a job. That’s how I ended up back home in Cheyenne.”

For Khale, his time at Lee University was a time of growth, both academically and as a person. “I learned about what mattered to me, what type of person I wanted to be, and began to learn how to navigate in a world where I was the one primarily responsible for my own actions and the results of those actions. Lee was a great environment in which to undergo that growth. There was a lot of support, I had a particularly good relationship with the professors that I took the most classes from, and I was able to have all the benefits of a university education in an environment the genuinely set me up to thrive. In retrospect, Lee was the right place at the right time for me. I became a much more confident and capable person while there. With the benefit of hindsight, there are some things I would have done differently, not because of regrets but because I didn’t appreciate how great the opportunities were. I didn’t take full advantage of some of the international offerings that I could have, and if I were to do it again, I would spend more time on that.”

Currently, Khale is a managing partner of Hirst Applegate, LLP, one of Wyoming’s oldest law firms. His primary focus is civil litigation defense, from personal injury cases to corporate disputes, as well as constitutional issues and their application to public officials. He and his wife Sarah have been married for 17 years. The couple has two daughters, Lillian (16) and Harper (12).

“My daughters can trace their family history in Wyoming back six generations. There are not very many people who can say that – pioneers really didn’t start arriving in Wyoming until the late 1800s. Cheyenne can be a tough place to live. We are at high elevation, with long winters and seemingly perpetual wind. However, the summers are better than just about any other place on earth, and it’s a community built entirely of people who want to be here and have chosen this place. We live here because we believe in our city and our state, what it stands for, and the community and common purpose makes for a great place to live. That, and spectacular access to the outdoors and the wild in a way that doesn’t exist even in a lot of other rural areas makes this a special place.”

JOSH ‘08 & RACHEL PODY ‘08 ALLEN

Josh and Rachel have been married 14 years, but their story wasn’t the traditional “ring by spring” story of Lee folklore. The Allens met at Lee but didn’t really start talking until a year after graduation. Rachel was living in Alabama and Josh was in Utah. After navigating the challenges of a long-distance relationship, they got married and moved to Utah where they love to hike, ski, and just enjoy mountain life.

Rachel: “Lee prepared me in so many ways for the life I live now. Hands down, one of my favorite memories was my cross-cultural experience. I went to London with the psychology department. It was an extraordinary trip for me. Going to the National Gallery and seeing the art in person, playing cards with my friends and professors while traveling, trying fish and chips from a street vendor...that trip shaped me in ways that I still think about today. But I think the important thing to me about my Lee experience was the



relationships I created. I value the time and energy I had to cultivate those relationships while at Lee, both friends and professors. And many of them are still present in my life. My professor Dr. Susan Ashcraft had the most impact on me while I was at Lee. She was – and is – incredibly supportive of my career goals. First, my professor and now my friend, I am forever grateful for the opportunity I had to learn from her.”

Josh: “I would say the best aspect of life after Lee and the most challenging has been raising our daughter. Parenting is such an interesting and beautiful part of life. Our daughter, Jasnah (6) is amazing! We have lived so much life together that it’s hard to pinpoint but we both agree that the journey that has gotten us here has been full of beauty and loss. We love the people we are growing into and the person we see our daughter becoming.”

The Allens have both completed graduate degrees and are pursuing their respective careers in the Salt Lake City area. Rachel is a licensed mental health therapist who specializes in trauma and sexual health. She is also a certified sex addiction therapist through ITTAP. She was recently accepted into a doctoral program for sexology and will begin classes this fall. Josh is a commercial loan processing manager at Zions Bancorporation.

EMILY YAMASAKI '06

Emily credits her experiences at Lee for preparing her for the path she is currently walking in both ministry and profession. "From a macro perspective, my entire academic experience at Lee helped me continue learning the important life skill of critical thinking. Many on-campus spiritually focused activities allowed me to wrestle with what it looked like to live out my faith every day and to discern what God was asking of me. In a more specific way, the intercultural studies program prepared me in many important ways for working and serving overseas. There were some things I could only learn by moving to Thailand and starting the work. I did not always get it right, and I still have more to learn about multicultural competence and helping in sustainable ways. Nonetheless, I believe I was much better equipped because of my education in the Intercultural Studies Program at Lee than I would have been without it."

Some of Emily's favorite memories of her time at Lee include attending summer school, serving with Pioneers for Christ and chapel with Dr. Conn. But the greatest impact on her life was provided by her professors and her cross-cultural experience/missions internship. "My professors took a personal interest in my education and career in missions. They have even continued to support me since leaving Lee. As I took classes with them and heard their own stories and life experiences, my eyes were opened to different ways of thinking about the world and ministry. My cross-cultural experience and missions internship allowed me to spend two and a half months in the country I felt called to. While there, I learned a lot from local missionaries and started to form connections that continued after I moved to Thailand. My experience

during my internship provided confirmation that I could see myself living in Thailand and that God would open doors for me there. I'm grateful for the many gifts I was given as a student at Lee University."

Emily has been on an exciting journey since leaving Lee. After graduation she moved back home to the Denver area to complete the Church of God Ministerial Internship Program. In 2007, she followed God's call on her life to teach English and do missions in Bangkok, Thailand. For seven years, she taught English while co-leading different outreach and discipleship programs in a local Thai church. "As a result of my experiences in Thailand, I felt a pull toward counseling, initially as a part of my missions work and later with the desire of providing counseling and care to missionaries and ministry families. During my final furlough back in the United States in 2015, I felt God preparing me for a new season, which was confirmed through various ministry opportunities in Thailand coming to an end. It was during this time that I made the decision to permanently move back to the United States, where I met my future husband, Andrew, and felt God's leading to pursue a graduate degree in counseling at Denver Seminary."

In 2019, Emily's journey continued when she and Andrew moved to California to pastor a church. However, in 2022, the Yamasaki's returned to the Denver area to care for family members who were experiencing various health challenges. As a licensed professional clinical counselor, Emily continues to see clients through her online practice in California and is currently working toward a Colorado counseling license. "I'm grateful for the opportunity to walk with people on their mental health journeys. I see this work as a type of ministry and opportunity to labor alongside Jesus in bringing hope and healing to our broken world."



*We are proud of our Flames!
Thank you, Chad, Stephanie, Khale,
Josh, Rachel, and Emily for using
your God-given gifts and skills to
make life better for others in your
communities. ♪*



We want to continue to support you in your success after Lee. The 1918 Society was designed with you in mind. Take advantage of the exciting events, professional resources, and networking opportunities provided by our alumni association. You are forever a flame, and we want to celebrate you.

We Are Lee!

FOLLOW US TO STAY CONNECTED



LEEUALUMNI



LEE ALUMNI UPDATES



CAREERS

1

Karen Hanks '78

Karen is a retired corporate executive now serving on a large non-profit foundation board overseeing nine healthcare entities and a second private equity portfolio company board in the food industry company headquartered in Germany. She is a founding member of Harvard Executive Women on Boards global network that now has 350+ global women executives advancing the diversity of corporate boards through qualified service. Blacksburg, VA.

1



2

Macy Woodworth '23

Weekend Morning Anchor & Multimedia Journalist, WTVM News Leader 9. Columbus, GA.

Chad James '10

Senior Vice President of Operations, MorningStar Senior Living. Castle Rock, CO.



2

Jason and Olivia Vance '15 Biggs - Married December 2023. Memphis, TN.

Jebb '23 and Abby Bacon Hodge - Married December 2023. Cleveland, TN.

Zach and Ann-Katherine Gobble '20 Thomas - Married December 2023. Cumming, GA.



Josh '21 and Ryleigh Osborne '23 Dawson - Married January 2024. Dalton, GA.



Grady and Savanna Brown '17 Saunders - Married December 2023. Atlanta, GA.

Christian '23 and Lydia Chittom '23 Coomer - Married February 2024. Athens, GA.

Nicholas '21 and Sarah Allen - Married December 2023. Clarksville, TN.



WEDDINGS

Robert and Amber Pratt '09 Gardner - Welcomed baby boy, Robert Maxwell, September 2023. Signal Mountain, TN.



Tim and Jordan Dickenson Moore '15 - Welcomed baby boy, Felix James, January 2024. Chattanooga, TN.



Jared and Casey Dean '07 Hodskins - Welcomed baby girl, Lila Dean, December 2023. Owensboro, KY.

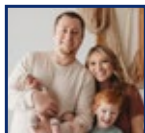
Isaiah '21 and Emily Grove '22 Storey - Welcomed twin boys, Levi Martin and Judah Joseph, November 2023. McMinnville, TN.

Jordan '18 and Rachel Proctor '17 McHann - Welcomed baby girl, Carolina June, January 2024. Warrenton, SC.

Dylan and Hannah Talley '20 Arnold - Welcomed baby girl, Charlotte Renee, December 2023. Chattanooga, TN.

DJ '12 and LaCresta Jones '15 Slivka - Welcomed baby boy, Hank Wilson, December 2023. Johnson City, TN.

Daniel '11 and Abby McKee - Welcomed baby boy, Jackson Richard, January 2024. Chattanooga, TN.



Brady '10 and Jaclyn Christie '11 Smith - Welcomed baby girl, Presley June, December 2023. Rome, GA.

Elliott '15 and Taylor Smith '14 Potter - Welcomed baby boy, Smith Atlas, December 2023. Birmingham, AL.

Justin '09 and Amanda Walker - Welcomed baby boy, Micah Paul, February 2024. Ooltewah, TN.

Mitch '12 and Stefany Vasquez '14 Gibson - Welcomed baby boy, Leo Edward, January 2024. Nashville, TN.

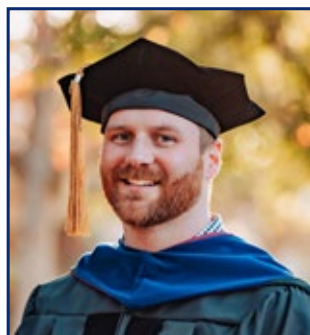


Hunter '17 and Hannah Sturgill '18 Osborne - Welcomed baby boy, Levi James, December 2023. Lenoir City, TN.

Matthew '17 and Ashley Wilson '17 Thurman - Welcomed baby boy, Camden Frank, November 2023. Chattanooga, TN.



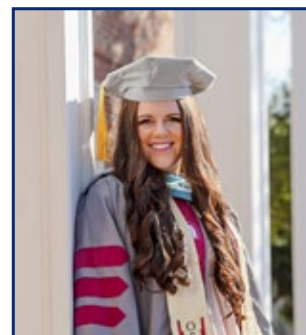
Austin '20 and Brooke VanderSteeg '19 Piper - Welcomed baby girl, Blakely Grace, February 2024. Knoxville, TN.



Matthew Stilwell '11
Earned PhD in Mass Communications from the University of South Carolina. Lexington, SC.



John Tyler Black '08
Earned Doctor of Ministry from the Barnett College of Ministry and Theology at Southeastern University. North Augusta, SC.



Rebekah Stiegler Donovan '14
Earned Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership from University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Salisbury, MD.



We want to continue to support you in your success after Lee. The 1918 Society was designed with you in mind. Take advantage of the exciting events, professional resources, and networking opportunities provided by our alumni association. You are forever a flame, and we want to celebrate you. ***We Are Lee!***

Follow us on social media to stay connected @LeeUAlumni



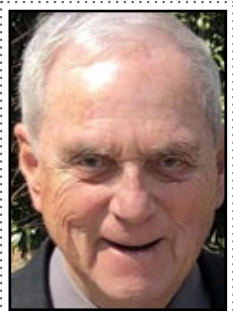




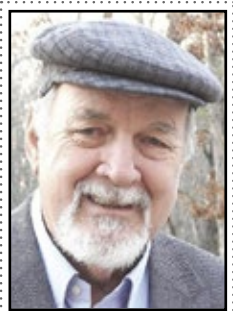
In Memory...

*Jesus said to her,
“I am the resurrection and the life.
The one who believes in me will live,
even though they die; and whoever
lives by believing in me will never die.
Do you believe this?”*

- John 11:25-26



Grey Holt Robinson '67, of Lakeland, Florida, passed away on Feb. 17, 2024, at the age of 87. He spent 52 years as a pastor, following his graduation from Lee, where he met and married his wife, Linda. He was also an inaugural member of Lee Singers. He pastored in Kentucky, Ohio, North Dakota, Georgia, and Tennessee, and also served as a general contractor for the construction of new churches in Thomasville and Chickamauga, Georgia. A man of many talents, Grey was a skilled carpenter and singer, and he conducted several choirs across the South. Even in retirement, he was an active member of the choir at Westmore Church of God, participated in mission trips, and served churches until the end of his life. He is survived by his wife Linda; and many other loving family members.



J. Stephen Conn, '67, went to be with the Lord on Feb. 4, 2024, at the age of 79. He was a graduate of Bradley Central High School and later attended Lee College, where he was a leader in Pioneers for Christ and a charter member of Alpha Gamma Chi. Stephen was an ordained minister and served as a pastor for over 60 years, preaching in every state in the U.S. and serving as a cruise ship chaplain for several years. He authored seven books and hundreds of articles, which appeared in both religious and secular magazines. He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles W. and Edna Minor Conn; and siblings, Sarah Wesson, Melody Conn, and Mark Conn. Stephen is survived by his wife Karen and three sons and two stepdaughters, along with many siblings, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.



Taylor Wade Cannon, of Cleveland, Tennessee, returned to the Lord on Jan 1, 2024, at the age of 20. He was a graduate of Walker Valley High School and was in his first year of nursing school at Lee. He was known for his love of others; his willingness to serve; his warm smile, wit, and work ethic; and being an avid Tennessee Volunteer fan. Taylor loved to travel and dreamed of becoming a traveling nurse so that he could help people all around the world. He leaves behind his parents Brittany and Wade Cannon, siblings Carson and Abbie Reese Cannon, and several extended family members and friends to cherish his memory.



Mike Dorset went to be with the Lord on Dec. 17, 2023. Born in Salt Lake City, Utah, Mike earned his doctorate and master's degree from Peabody at Vanderbilt University. He taught at Cleveland State Community College, where he later served as head of the science department. He also served part time at Lee University and was beloved by thousands of students. He was an active member of Westwood Baptist Church, serving as a Sunday School teacher, director of mission trips, and was a faithful community member. He is survived by his wife, Sarah; three sons, David, John, and Dan Dorset; and eight grandchildren.



Betty Lane Raney Lanier '53, passed away on Dec. 28, 2023, at the age of 88. While at Lee, Betty met the love of her life, David Lanier, a ministry student from Florida. Betty loved serving alongside her husband in ministry life. She was best known for her many acts of kindness and her sweet spirit. In their early ministry, Betty and David evangelized in Ohio, Virginia, Florida and West Virginia. They transitioned to pastoral ministry and pastored churches in Ohio and Florida. They also served the Church of God denomination as state evangelism director of Florida and state overseer of Iowa, Michigan and South Georgia. Betty was preceded in death by her husband, and is survived by her daughters, granddaughters, and host of other family and friends.



Roland Sharp '65, of Cleveland, Tennessee, returned to his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Feb. 2, 2024, at the age of 80. Roland served as an ordained minister in the Church of God, leading numerous congregations since 1965, including churches in Knoxville, Memphis, McMinnville, Lawrenceburg, West Nashville, Decherd, and Union City, Tennessee, as well as Alamogordo, New Mexico. After retiring, he was an active member of North Cleveland Church of God, community prayer groups, and a beloved member of the Lee University Encore program. He is survived by his wife, Barbara Fullbright Sharp, and many beloved children and grandchildren.



Judy Sue LaBoy Smith '67, of Mobile, Alabama, passed away on Dec. 21, 2023, at the age of 76. After graduating from Lee College, Judy went on to teach music in Bradley County before working as an editor for the Church of God Publishing House. She served as a pianist for the Assembly of God Church in Hayesville and was a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Andrews, North Carolina. She is survived by her husband Curteis J. LaBoy and many other friends and family.



Joseph Ralph Spencer '75, of Statesville, North Carolina, passed away on Feb. 20, 2024, at the age of 82. He graduated from Lee with a degree in teaching and went on to coach several high school sports teams in the Tennessee area, but served longest at Bradley Jr. High (now Ocoee Middle), as head coach for the 8th grade girls' basketball team. Joe received several recognitions, including naming the road at Ocoee Middle the Joe Spencer Pass. He was a mentor to many young teachers and coaches and was a faithful member of First Presbyterian Church for over 66 years. He taught adult Sunday School, led youth, and organized the yearly family camp, now named "Joe Spencer Church Family Camp," at Camp John Knox. He leaves behind his wife Charlotte, along with several children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.



Joseph "Joe" Nelson '75, of Cleveland, Georgia, and formerly of Cleveland, Tennessee, passed away on Nov. 19, 2023, at the age of 71. Joe was a graduate of Gates Chili High School in Rochester, New York, where he was a state champion in track and field. He then went on to receive his bachelor's degree from Lee. He was retired from the Hall County, Georgia School System where he taught at the West Hall County Middle School. He also served as volleyball coach for West County High School and at one time was the 5th winningest volleyball coach in the State of Georgia. Joe was a member of the Concord Baptist Church in Clermont, Georgia. Survivors include his wife of 50 years, Susan Gregory Nelson, and many other friends and family left to cherish his memory.



Raeford Carrol Wiggins '86, passed away on Dec. 21, 2023, at the age of 81. After serving time in the Air Force, Raeford felt called into the ministry. After serving as a pastor for 18 years, Raeford became head of religious services at a correctional facility and later served as chaplain. He served in that capacity for 17 years before retiring. Raeford had a big heart for the prisoners and led many to Jesus while there. He loved people and enjoyed every moment of life praying, singing, and praising God. Raeford was preceded in death by his first wife, Emogene Wiggins, and is survived by his loving wife, Lois Murray Morgan Wiggins, along with other family and friends.



THE LAST WORD:

"MADE WITH A PURPOSE"

Eric Liddle was born in China to Scottish missionaries. He ultimately became a missionary to China in 1925 and died in a Japanese internment camp in 1945. Liddle was a gifted athlete blessed with exceptional speed. So, exceptional, he was good enough to make the 1924 British Olympic track team. Liddle's journey to how he became an Olympic athlete is featured in the classic movie *Chariots of Fire*.

The movie depicted how his track career clashed with his call to be a missionary. The clash came when Liddle delayed going to be a missionary in China to run in the Olympic Games. He broke the news to his sister who became upset by his decision. She was quite angry with Liddle and was quite disturbed because she sincerely believed he was out of the will of God.

There's a touching scene in the movie where Liddle meets his sister to explain his decision. He shares with her that he's going to China to which she responds with tremendous excitement and relief. However, he then tells her that he's going to run, first. Liddle explains to her, "God made me with a purpose. For China...But he also made me fast, and when I run, I feel His pleasure. To not run and to not win, would hold Him in contempt."

Students attend Lee University from a wide range of backgrounds. Some are the first generation in their family to ever attend college. Others are "legacies" – those who are children or grandchildren of Lee alums. We have students who come highly academically prepared and others that arrive who are not as academically prepared. Students attend from all over the United States and the world. Presently, forty-six different states and forty-six different countries are represented in Lee's student body. Lee students also derive from a broad continuum of socio-economic levels. A variety of denominations, spiritual experiences, and church backgrounds also make up the landscape of the student body. We consider all of them entrusted to us by God. We love them all! They are our mission field!

For over 106 years, Lee faculty, staff and administration have dedicated themselves to helping students like these discover how God has made them fast, equipping them to run to feel His pleasure and to do His redemptive work in the earth. More than 40,000 Lee alumni around the globe are actively engaged in a myriad of vocations to make the world a better place for the purposes of God. Through Christlike character, servant leadership, and a strong Christian work ethic, they are impacting lives for the kingdom of God. They know how God has made them fast and they are running, feeling His pleasure, and transforming the world!

It has been my distinct privilege and honor these past four years as the seventeenth President of Lee University to partner with such world-class educators to prepare students for responsible Christian living in a complex world. I am proud to call each one my colleague.

From the President



Mark L. Walker
Mark L. Walker, PhD
President



P.O. Box 3450
Cleveland, TN 37320-3450

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO LEAVE A LEGACY AT LEE. MAYBE THE BEST WAY IS ON FRESHMAN MOVE-IN DAY.

We love our legacy students here at Lee University! They are so important in continuing over a century of Christ-centered excellence into Lee's bright future.

If you have a middle schooler or high schooler, we would love to know who they are and how to connect with them. Please follow the **QR code to submit this information**, and we will follow up when the time is right.

