A Homecoming of Record Proportions

Fueled by an infusion of alumni of the past fifty years here to celebrate the half-century mark of both Alpha Gamma Chi and the Lee Singers, Homecoming 2013 set attendance records and was the stage for new events and reunion gatherings.


By Cameron Fisher

Honor Where Honor Is Due

Two traditional Homecoming awards honored men who have made an impact on both Lee students and Lee alumni throughout the years. Read about the founder of the Lee Singers, Dr. Delton Alford, and a key leader in the success of the Global Perspectives Program, Andrew Sinclair.


The Explosion of Online Learning

A changing demographic of how students—traditional and nontraditional—choose to earn their college degrees has created a new way of delivering the educational product, and Lee University Division of Adult Learning is on the cutting edge.


A Changing Terrain

Old houses have come down, a new building is rising, renovations have begun, and a facelift is coming for a former church campus that was adjacent to Lee’s campus, but will soon become an epicenter of student activity. Tons of earth have been shifted to create a new landscape which will include a new “quad,” featuring a major central feature.


Not Content to Take a Back Seat

As the Lee Flames and Lady Flames play through a provisional year in the NCAA Division II, they have done so with gusto, competing with the best in the Gulf South Conference. Read how the fall sports teams fared.


Opening Thoughts from President Paul Conn

Never Bring a Knife to a Gunfight

That’s a bit of common-sense advice that I never expect to use, in a literal sense. I hope never to be in a gunfight, with a knife or otherwise. But I get the message: make sure your weapons match up to the situation, or more particularly of your opponent. The cultural wars of the 21st Century are a gunfight, for sure. Not that we should be surprised, as Christian believers. The relationship between the people of God and the forces of secularism has always been more a battle than a Waltz. Scripture warns us: “we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities…”

For a young follower of Christ, whether called to full-time vocational ministry or not, the life one faces in 2012 will be a constant challenge to maintain and advance the claims of a Christ-centered life. The question is what kind of intellectual and personal training will best equip the believer for the fight? What kind of school, what kind of campus and classroom?

In my opinion, the best place to train for Christian living in a dark world is the Christ-centered liberal arts college or university. Some of the other types of preparation—the traditional Bible College, the parachurch “boot camp,” or many others have lots of positive qualities, but ultimately send young people into the gunfight with a knife. Underequipped.

An older Christian once told me, when I was a college student, pondering how best to prepare for ministry: “Know the message; know the audience; know why it matters.”

As I think back on that good advice, it strikes me that “knowing the message” means knowing the Bible; “knowing the audience” means knowing the culture; “knowing why it matters” means knowing...
More than 500 alumni from all 50 years of alumni of the Lee Singers took the Conn Center stage as the climax to Homecoming 2013.
FIFTY-YEAR CELEBRATIONS HIGHLIGHT HOMECOMING

By Cameron Fisher

In the early 1960s, Lee experienced a mini-renaissance. Coming out of a period in the previous decade when enrollment dipped to under 400, the 1960s began a turnaround. By the middle of the decade, the student population had climbed above 1,000 for the first time in its history. In that period, Lee also began a series of events and groups that were considered, perhaps, a bit daring, but 50 years later, we are celebrating their origins.

We are currently in the midst of that “daring” period, celebrating half a century of such staples on the Lee campus as Homecoming, Parade of Favorites, and the men of Upsilon Xi. Next year it will be the women’s group Delta Zeta Tau’s turn, followed shortly thereafter by Sigma Nu Sigma sorority.

This year, however, was the year to commemorate 50 years of the Alpha Gamma Chi fraternity and the premiere choral group on campus—Lee Singers. Like the others mentioned, these two groups have shaped the direction and history of Lee University as demonstrated by their staying power and unbreakable bonds of their alumni.

Membership in Alpha Gamma Chi and the Lee Singers defined my Lee experience. For thousands of others through the years, it may have been one, two, or even more of these same organizations. For those who came back to celebrate either Chi or Singers, they were not disappointed.
BURGUNDY AND GRAY ALL DAY

Members of at least two generations of Alpha Gamma Chi painted the campus in their signature burgundy and gray colors on Homecoming weekend. The men—and women—of Chi were more than 300 strong as they participated in several events. They began their celebration with a golf tournament, followed by a Friday night family cookout at Souther Field, where they couldn’t resist a pickup softball game, one of the dominating intramural sports for which they have been well known throughout the years.

On Saturday morning, the Chi men gathered for their main event in the DeVos Recreation Center. A buffet breakfast was followed by greetings from the current Chi president, Todd Hammond, and remarks from Lee President Dr. Paul Conn, a charter member and former president of Chi. Conn congratulated the club on the exemplary group of alumni they have produced and unveiled a proposal for a 50th Anniversary gift to the university (see article in Campus News).

A highlight of the breakfast event was the awarding of the club’s Distinguished Alumnus Award, which, for the first time, was presented to an alumna. Joan Davis Conn, an early sweetheart of the club, was awarded Chi’s highest honor for her exemplary work toward the eradication of the practice of child slavery in Haiti.

Chi topped off their weekend of events and fellowship by reserving a section of burgundy and gray in Walker Arena to watch the Lee Flames defeat the Tennessee Temple Crusaders later that afternoon.

TRADITIONAL AND NEW ON THE AGENDA

New events this year broke new ground in alumni participation and input. Three of those highlights were departmental breakfasts, Lawyers at Lee, and a Blessing of the Couples. The departmental breakfasts, held Saturday at 9 a.m., provided an opportunity for alumni to reconnect with professors and classmates. An award celebrating a distinguished alumnus for each department was presented (see article next issue).

Lawyers at Lee brought together alumni who have graduated from different departments at Lee and continued to law school. This reception took place on Saturday at 5 p.m.

A Blessing of the Couples at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday invited Lee University alumni couples to come to the Chapel where Pastor Jimmy Harper spoke a benediction over them for the coming year.

Homecoming began Friday, Nov. 1, at noon, with a check-in buffet in the Science and Math Complex (SMC) and culminated with a dessert mixer on Saturday, Nov. 2, at 9 p.m. in the Chapel courtyard. In addition to the 50th celebrations, Lee hosted numerous events to welcome alumni back to campus.

“We launched several new events that appealed to many new alumni segments,” said Director of Alumni Relations Patti Cawood. “This Homecoming made a real effort to produce a menu of varied and unique offerings to reflect our (alumni) diversity and varied interests.”

The check-in buffet included more than just food; for example, T-shirts, a photo booth, good fellowship, and a sampling of campus restaurants were provided.

At the Dixon Center, Lee University Theatre teamed up with Lee’s School of Music to present the Tony Award Best Play nomination—33 Variations. The play won the 2007 Edgerton New American Play Award and was presented twice during the weekend.

Back for its third year was the Alumni Grand Reunion held Friday night in the Student Union. For those not involved in the Singers rehearsal or the play, the celebration featured food such as BBQ sliders, pizza, a chip bar, and root beer floats, and time to enjoy the company of all alumni. The classes of 1973, ’83, ’93, and ’03 were highlighted.

The popular student exhibits and Homecoming Tailgate Party also returned this year at 10 a.m. on Saturday morning and a tailgate party at noon. These events preceded the Homecoming basketball games in Walker Arena. The Lady Flames defeated Bryan College, while the men’s team battled Tennessee Temple University for a lopsided win.

A dessert mixer, open to all alumni, was held on Saturday at 9 p.m. This relaxed, drop-in event provided a chance to enjoy desserts and one last opportunity to catch up with others.
Andy Sinclair is the primary tour package provider for student study abroad opportunities at Lee University. Probably no other provider has done quite as much business over the years with Lee as Tyndale Group Travel (TGT).

Andy was first introduced to the Lee family of study abroad over 15 years ago. A few years later, Andy stepped forward to assume the role of tour director and provider for the Semester in Europe program—the original Cambridge study abroad program at Lee. He’s been providing that service ever since.

“Anyone who knows Andy, who has worked with him, or who has had a chance to be part of one of the dozens of study abroad opportunities he has provided knows that he is much more than a mere tour director,” stated Matthew Melton, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Lee. “A trip anywhere in Europe accompanied by Andy Sinclair is an experience hundreds of Lee students recall with great fondness and enthusiasm. Andy is more than a businessman who has taken students and faculty from point A to point B. To a great many Lee alumni, Andy is a friend who has fed them breakfast, lunch, or dinner, who has located lost passports, wallets, and teddy bears, and who has taken them to the doctor or the hospital and provided them with ibuprofen and a cup of warm soup. He has even attended their weddings. When Andy makes his annual brief pilgrimage to Cleveland, Tennessee, students and former students come out of the woodwork to take him to dinner, to have him over to their houses, to shake his hand, and to have him kiss their babies. He has found a way into the hearts of many of our faculty and students, and they all regard him as family.”

“From its humble beginnings, TGT is now a business that caters to several major sports teams in northern England,” Melton said. “Andy shuttles VIPs, celebrities, even persons of state in premiere coaches, limos, and chartered private jets. He has won the prestigious national Coach Operator of the Year at the Route One Operator Excellence Awards for the UK two years running. The fact is, Andy no longer really needs Lee University’s business. Nevertheless, he still prizes the chance to interact with Lee students and looks forward every year especially to the Semester in Europe program in Cambridge, England, where he interrupts his regular course of business to spend days on end with the young people from Lee.”

Dr. Delton Alford ’57 is the recipient of the highest alumni award from his alma mater, the 2013 Distinguished Alumnus Award.

The presentation was made by President Conn during the annual President’s Circle Luncheon held November 2 at Homecoming. The award coincided with the 50-year celebration of the founding of the Singers in 1963 by Alford and his direction of the group for its first 15 years.

Alford’s contributions to Lee over the years go beyond the Lee Singers. He is a past chairman of the university’s Music Department (1963–1968) and a former vice president under Dr. Charles W. Conn (1976–1980). Currently, Alford is director of Faculty Services for the Division of Adult Learning at Lee, a post he has held for the last three years. From 1984–2010, Alford served the Church of God denomination as director of the Department of Music Ministries, a post where he also led SpiritSound Music, a company which produced several Dove Award nominated albums.

“When speaking of the legacy of music at both Lee University and the Church of God, Delton Alford’s imprint is on both,” Conn said of Alford. “He has been at the forefront of the church music industry, and Lee has benefitted from his talents through the years. The enduring effectiveness of the Lee Singers stems from the roots Delton Alford planted in those early years. Fifty years later, we all are enjoying the fruits of his labors.”

During his acceptance speech, Alford thanked his wife, Myrna, and three daughters Susan Carter, Candace Price, and Lesley Smith, all of whom are alumni of the Lee Singers and participated in the Reunion Choir on Homecoming weekend. Alford holds a Ph.D. from Florida State University, and is a music writer, arranger, and clinician.
Lee Taking Higher Education to Adult Students

By Dr. Joshua Black, director, Division of Adult Learning

On American higher education, online learning as we know it today was birthed from adult programs. In the 1970s, many institutions started offering evening and weekend programs, along with correspondence (printed material), videos, interactive teleconferencing programs, and other creative methods to deliver college programs at a distance to working adults. Several of the universities that now have large online programs originally started with one of the “old fashioned” programs for adult students.

Today in 2013, most people hear multiple online college programs advertised daily on television, radio, and internet radio. It is hard to drive very far in a car or ride public transportation without seeing a billboard or advertisement for a college program that is “designed for you.” College programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels are designed and targeted at busy adult lifestyles. Some online schools now advertise so much that their institutions have become common household names—not because of a powerhouse football team or a dazzling campus, but because they advertised enough names—not because of a powerhouse football team or a dazzling campus, but because they advertised enough.

Lee University recognizes this reality, and it has chosen to meet the needs of its nontraditional students by taking higher education to them through the Division of Adult Learning (DAL). The DAL is comprised of five departmental teams: Enrollment Services, Faculty Services, Curriculum Development, Technology Support, and the Charlotte Center. Heading up each department are the members of our leadership team, which include Dr. Delton Alford, Dr. Suzanne Holt, Mitchell Baker, and Dr. Greg Sloop.

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As reported in the 2013 fall issue of Torch, the DAL team is presently moving to Lee’s newly acquired Monument Building. The university is retrofitting the interior of the building to house the Adult Learning unit. The university will also be adding a small video suite for the purpose of recording brief faculty lectures, streaming live webinars, and hosting other video occasions for students and faculty. The DAL currently streams live faculty webinars monthly for its 90-plus part-time faculty. Individual faculty members also utilize synchronous class meetings in their online courses where video capabilities are used. The Division of Adult Learning houses the Lee Online programs and the Charlotte Center, with a total enrollment of more than 650 adult students. This number includes a little less than 100 students at the Charlotte, N.C. center and more than 550 online students. In the past year, 75 adult students have graduated from Lee through the DAL, most of these attended commencement and walked across the stage in the presence of family and friends.

While we believe offering online programs are good ways to help adults achieve their desired educational outcomes, we continue to treasure and promote the on-campus experience...

The DAL currently offers three undergraduate ministry degree programs. These include Bible and Theology, Christian Studies, and Ministry Leadership (with emphases in counseling, music and worship, pastoral ministry, discipleship, church administration, and youth ministry). The DAL also offers a nonministry degree-completion program in Liberal Studies for adults who have college credits, but who have never finished their degrees.

In May, the DAL partnered with the School of Religion (SOR) to start offering the Master of Arts degree in ministry studies online. Students are now able to take the SOR’s graduate program online with a graduate ministry discount. This 36-hour program allows students to focus on leadership studies, worship studies, or youth and family studies. Eighteen students started in the first cohort in August of 2013. The DAL will be starting cohorts in this program in August, January, and May each year. Various other Lee departments are also partnering with DAL to offer specific courses for their students online. A recent example can be seen in its partnership with the Business faculty to offer four online courses designed to prepare MBA applicants who do not have business undergraduate experience.

Lee is currently exploring additional partnerships with the DAL and the traditional campus departments. The success of the School of Religion and Department of Business partnerships have proven that the innovation the DAL can help the traditional faculty and staff at Lee University to work with their students at a distance. The faculty and staff at the Division of Adult Learning love the opportunity to help Lee University to take adult higher education to the next level.

God for oneself in a deeply authentic way. I was the product of a good Bible College. My undergraduate transcript is filled with biblical studies, theology, and Greek. It was a traditional training for ministry, and it taught me “the message” quite well. But when I graduated, and began to preach and serve as a local youth pastor, I realized that I knew a lot more about what I was trying to communicate than I did about the people to whom I was speaking and the culture in which the dialogue was occurring.

As I considered what kind of education I needed next, I automatically applied to seminary, but without much enthusiasm. Eventually, I enrolled instead in a graduate program in psychology, and earned a M.A. and a Ph.D. in that area.

That program taught me nothing about God—not intentionally, at least— but it taught me a lot about people and indirectly about ministry. So after eight years of full-time study, I felt better equipped for my calling, but I always regretted the fact that my intellectual training had come in two separate silos, and I missed the integration and cross-pollination that I knew was an indispensable part of a complete education.

Later, I went on to seminary to teach psychology, and there I saw that integrated, real-life combination of biblical truth with the arts and sciences would be an integral part of the training for a life of Christian discipleship. I saw this model not just at Lee, but at many other wonderful Christ-centered institutions around the country who offer academic programs.

I have now been president of Lee University for many years, and I have handed thousands of diplomas to students graduating in dozens of fields from history to premed to French. For all of them, regardless of their academic major, I know that they have also taken courses in Bible, in Christian ethics and worldview, and have learned the demands of Christian service and global servanthood.

Now they are ready to go out there into the battle—not with a knife, but with a gun. They have explored the message of the Bible, alongside fellow believers, and at the same time have explored the culture of which they are a part—all in an environment which affirms faith rather than destroying it. I believe it is the best possible preparation for the life to which God has called them.

Reprinted from Charisma’s Best Christian Universities, Colleges and Schools

OPENING THOUGHTS FROM PRESIDENT PAUL CONN CONNECTED...
In commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War in Bradley County, the Lee campus served as a staging ground for period re-enactments and demonstrations for local school children.

Photo by Nancy Neal
New Campus “Quad” to Highlight Southern Terrain

The southern side of the Lee campus will be so dramatically different next fall it will be hard to imagine that it used to be First Baptist Church property. Transformation of the blocks between Central Avenue and 6th Street (south to north), and between Parker Street and Church Street (east to west) literally changes every day as a massive landscape, remodeling, and construction plan takes shape.

So far, the transformation has involved the recent demolition of three homes, two apartment complexes, one former retail plaza, the closure of portions of two streets (4th Street and 5th Street), an influx of tons of earth to create tiers of new landscape, creation and relocation of campus parking, and the ongoing construction of a $13 million Communications Building.

And they are just getting started. Still to come over the next two years are: (1) a facelift of the educational wing of the former church, including the addition of columns matching the architecture of the university, creating a primary northern entrance; (2) a drastic remodeling of the interior to accommodate the Department of Business and other entities; (3) razing of at least three more structures in the affected area, including the current home of Campus Safety and a former downtown bank location; (4) reconfiguration of Church Street into a boulevard, similar to Parker Street; and (5) creation of a collegiate “quad,” which will feature a central structure to be funded by multiple Greek groups on campus.

The central structure of the quad was introduced on Homecoming weekend to alumni of several groups celebrating or planning for their 50th anniversaries. In making the announcement to Alpha Gamma Chi and Delta Zeta Tau, President Conn described the project as “The Forum,” which refers to a central marketplace or public space in ancient times, tying the project to the Greek clubs.

“We don’t know exactly what this structure will consist of yet,” Conn told the group at their 50th anniversary breakfast. “It may have a cupola, a clock tower, or a combination. Whatever is decided, it will be the dominant focus of this new southern quad.” Conn noted that plans for the Forum are significant, thus requiring the commitment of several groups to help fund it.

The Communications Building will be under construction nonstop until its unveiling next summer when students return for classes in August. President Conn recently gave a “behind-the-scenes” tour to the Communications faculty—the primary group who will occupy the new structure.
"Based on the progress so far, it's safe to say that we will be able to occupy the building when the students arrive next fall," Conn told the group that day. "The intimate spaces in this building and its features will make it one of the more popular places to both attend and to teach classes." Conn pointed out some of those spaces, including a black-box theater, 110-seat screening room, and other specialized classrooms, all of which will be equipped with the latest in projection technology.

Dr. Conn noted that placement of the new Communications Building in relation to downtown Cleveland dictates that it be architecturally attractive on all sides. The main entrance for the campus will be on the east front, where it will face the new quad and boulevard. Clevelanders driving by on Ocoee Street will essentially be viewing the backside of the building.

"The design calls for a loading door on the building and that will be located on the west, or Ocoee Street side," Conn said. "However, this will be a good-looking building all around." Conn also pointed out that when public performances take place in the black-box theater, a door at the corner of Central and Ocoee will be utilized as the primary entrance.

Communications faculty will welcome the building as a place to call home. The Dixon Center, built in 1992, was constructed primarily for drama and fine arts and at a time when the department was growing, but not at the level of today. Although equipped with some space for faculty, the Dixon Center was not designed to completely house the communications program. In the 21 years since its completion, the addition of multiple programs of study, new faculty positions, and technology that changes every day has rendered the Dixon Center inadequate to effectively teach the programs of digital media. Introduction of the new building next fall will thrust the Communications Department into the modern age and beyond.

Kelvin Tarukwasha:
Popular Food Services Manager Returns to Homeland

"It is kind of like [being a] tentmaker," Tarukwasha said. "You use your professional skills to provide not only for yourself, but also for others." He also plans to use his knowledge of food management he gained while working for Sodexo to partner with existing organizations who are working to solve the hunger problem.

His passion for serving those in need was his initial reason for applying to Lee in 1993. "I [had] wanted to study to be in Christian education so I could work with the youth and in the church," Tarukwasha said. After being accepted, his family saved up money for the plane ticket and the down payment for tuition. Yet due to a misunderstanding with an organization upon his arrival on campus, he discovered that he was not able to receive a scholarship that had previously been awarded to him. In order to pay for school, he worked three jobs while taking classes. He would clean the library at night, work in the dining hall, and work a part-time job installing carpets in campus buildings.

"Instead of looking at all the hours I was working as a problem, I looked at it like God was providing," Tarukwasha said. Over the years, he faced many challenges that delayed his chances to return to Zimbabwe. Yet, his faith in God’s provision has remained intact.

"There will always be challenges," Tarukwasha said. "Whether it is facing not having money to pay for school or a personal loss in life... at least in my life, God has always been faithful.

In addition to being a part of groups that have brought in businesses such as Subway and Einstein’s Bagels to the Lee campus, Tarukwasha has been heavily involved with Lee’s African international student population. He was part of a team of people who supported Darlia Conn, an adjunct professor at the School of Music and wife of President Conn, in establishing the Darlia McCluhan Conn African Student Scholarship.

"[He has] such a heart for other students from Africa," Darlia Conn said of Tarukwasha. "I just think he’s a remarkable person, and I think God has blessed him; I absolutely wish him the best.”

"People have invested so much in my life," Tarukwasha said. "I can’t justify why people... have mentored me except by saying that it is to prepare me for what God has called me to do in Zimbabwe.”

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Chris Conine, vice president of Business and Finance, said many at Lee admire Tarukwasha. "He is valued and respected by me, his peers at Sodexo, and scores of students, faculty, and staff at Lee University," Conine said. "He will definitely be missed."
Lee Issues Apps for Students

Incoming freshman Zachary Fallin was grateful for the app saying, “It told me everything that I was supposed to be doing for the whole weekend. I didn’t have to print out a sheet or anything; it was just all right there on my phone.”

The next smartphone app introduced was the Lee Flames. This provides the same information as the athletics website, but in a more mobile format. This app’s features include live statistics, photos, and schedules. Tucker explained that the app will have playing rules. Tucker explained that the app will have playing rules. Tucker explained that the app will have playing rules. Tucker explained that the app will have playing rules. Tucker explained that the app will have playing rules.

The last app, Ellucian GO, is for general use that allows the user to view the school’s news, upcoming events, courses, and a directory of important phone numbers.

Lee’s IT Department partnered with First-Year Programs in order to make it happen. “We had 1,400 downloads, or 1,400 unique people who used the app. So, I would say that was somewhat successful,” Tucker said.

“They were really excited. It’s the first time we’ve done something like that for new student orientation,” said Rochelle Mayberry, assistant director of First-Year Programs. It became very beneficial for new students, because it was a way to register for classes; and, it helped them find their way around their new home at Lee University.

Poplin and Okenye Win Education Graduate Awards at Lee University

The Lee University School of Religion is now offering a third track in its graduate offerings in biblical and theological studies. Students can now pursue the Master of Arts degree in theological studies with an emphasis in theological ethics, a new concentration distinct from the existing master’s degree in biblical studies and master’s degree in theological studies.

Dean of the School of Religion, Dr. Terry Cross, says, “Although the study of theological ethics may begin with high philosophical reasoning, a practical application of ethics can be found in daily living through issues of truth-telling, contracts and agreements, peace-making, sexual practice, and our treatment of children and aging adults. The understanding and practice of ethics minimizes risks in all areas of life and is not only historically significant, but also relevant for today.”

The new ethics emphasis is unique within institutions of higher education in the United States and has its genesis in faculty observation of culture and students. Postbaccalaureate study of ethics from a Christian worldview will undeniably impact global and local culture as ethical decision-making enters every realm of human existence.

Dr. Skip Jenkins, director of graduate programs in biblical and theological studies, said, “While core theological and biblical training will be required for all students in the new emphasis, students will be allowed to work with faculty to follow their own academic interests as they become ‘masters’ in their fields of study as related to ethical issues in economics, technology, business, religion, the sciences, politics, family and society, or in whatever other disciplines the students’ interests lie.”

Poplin recently completed the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) degree and is currently employed with the Cleveland City School System. An elementary art teacher, Poplin sees the creative arts as “a valuable tool to teach other subjects.” She, along with her Mayfield Elementary students, wrote, illustrated, and published a book this spring, titled, The Very Courageous Cowboy. The Cliff Schimmels Award is presented annually to the graduate student demonstrating outstanding teaching in the classroom. It is named in honor of former professor Dr. Cliff Schimmels, a nationally acclaimed educational expert who passed away in May 2001.

Okenye, who also recently completed the MAT program, teaches chemistry and math at Polk County (Tenn.) High School. Okenye’s award-winning thesis, “Molarity, Moods, and Monomials: The Impact of Attitudes Toward Science and Math at Polk County High School,” explored high school students’ attitudinal differences toward STEM (Science, Technology, Engineer- ing, and Mathematics) courses.

The Gary L. Riggins Graduate Education Writing Award was established to honor Dr. Gary L. Riggins, longtime director of graduate programs in education at Lee. It is given annually to the graduate student who demonstrates superior writing skills as determined by a vote of the graduate faculty.
Olivia Looney Crowned Miss Parade of Favorites

Olivia Looney took the crown of Miss Parade of Favorites 2013 at the 51st annual Parade of Favorites Pageant on Nov. 9 at Conn Center. Looney is senior digital media major from Charleston, SC. She represented Omega Phi Alpha, with J.J. Williamson as her escort. During her time at Lee, she has been involved with many different clubs and programs such as Theta Delta Kappa, Campus Choir, and the Lee Update. Looney also cohosted Paul Conn’s 25th Anniversary Celebration and hopes to host her own talk show some day.

While preparing for the event, Looney enjoyed spending time with the other participants in the Parade of Favorites.

“All the contestants that I got to be with and compete with were absolutely phenomenal,” Looney said. Contestants met every week to rehearse their dances, which were choreographed by instructor James Vassell.

“It was almost like another Greek club that I got to be a part of this semester,” Olivia said. Looney recognized the leadership committee’s hard work and effort in bringing the event together.

“Our directors were absolutely wonderful. Alyssa Oliver and Ashley Lee did an amazing job, as well as our choreographer James Vassell. They worked their tails off,” Looney said. Looney is also grateful for the fact that the leadership made her feel comfortable while also pushing her to do better.

“They whipped us into shape, and it paid off,” Looney said. Moving up from assistant director in 2012, this year’s Parade of Favorites was directed by Alyssa Oliver, a senior music business major at Lee. Oliver worked tirelessly on the pageant for over two months to pull off the program with her team.

This year’s theme was social media, which birthed the title “#POF2013.” “We knew we had to really step it up to make sure it was relevant,” Oliver said.

The event played out with many current and popular fads like the well-known hash tag, it was based around many popular social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. In their busy schedules with work, classes, and other extracurricular activities in which participants are involved, Oliver said it was a tough task to get everyone together for the practices and meetings held to pull off the program.

“We only met once a week, so that really put pressure on contestants to be there. That was probably our most crazy obstacle,” Oliver said.

Ashley Lee, assistant director of the production, was pleased with the outcome of the event and a job well done from the participants. “I am so incredibly proud of all these ladies, they really ran with this, and they put their hearts in it,” Lee said.

Alongside, 10 women entered the contest, along with their escorts. The Parade of Favorites Scholarships Pageant is held annually, and it is open to any girl in a campus club.

By Camille Gowdy Staff Writer Lee Clarion

 Lee Teams Shine in First NCAA Season

Lee’s Justin Furey goes high for a header. The Flames battled to a second-place finish in their very first year as members of the Gulf South Conference.

I t did not take long for the Lee fall athletic teams to make their presence felt as they entered first-year competition in the Gulf South Conference (GSC) as provisional members of NCAA Division II.

Lee Athletic Director Larry Carpenter had nothing but praise for the move to the Gulf South and Division II. “I thought moving to the Gulf South Conference and DII would mean better teams and more competitive contests, and I have not been disappointed,” he noted. “It seems that each night we have had to play our best to win, and sometimes that wasn’t enough.”

“I am proud of the way our fall sports teams have performed and how they’ve competed against some of the best DII schools in the country. I am excited about our winter and spring sports teams and feel they will also do well in the GSC. There is a reason they call the Gulf South Conference the SEC of DII, and we are proud to be part of it.”

MEN’S SOCCER

Coach Paul Furey, who has been mentoring college athletes for almost 30 years, was the first to admit he had never experienced anything like the 2013–2014 season. His “Overtime Kids” played in nine rugged overtime contests and made believers out of several GSC opponents.

The Flames placed second in the conference with an 8-2-4 record and lost only to GSC champ West Florida 1-0 in overtime and to Christian Brothers 2-1 in overtime. Furey’s men are 10-3-5 overall as they enter NCCAA tourney play. Their last defeat came way back on Sept. 27. Furey picked up his three-hundredth college coaching win on Nov. 1, when the Flames defeated rival Shorter University.

Said Furey, “In my mind, it was a terrific first year in terms of competition, excitement, and quality of play. Every match was a grueling battle. I think we showed by our finish that Lee is going to be one of the programs fighting for the top.”
**Volleyball**

Despite being hit with a rash of injuries to key players, Coach Andreas Hudson’s team still found a way to finish third in the GSC and post a 12-3-1 mark (this will need to be updated). The only conference defeat came at West Florida. The league champion Argonauts scored late to pull out the 1-0 victory. The Lady Flames finished Gulf South Conference opponent 3-0, and what is more important, they raised a record-setting $27,000 for the Mary Ellen Locher Scholarship Fund.

**WOMEN’S SOCCER**

The Lady Flames finished GSC play with an 8-1-1 record and will head into NCAA championship with a 12-3-1 mark (this will need to be updated). The only conference defeat came at West Florida. The league champion Argonauts scored late to pull out the 1-0 victory. Alabama-Huntsville and Camden also held the Lady Flames to a 1-1 overtime tie.

Coach Junior Hudson's squad made history by becoming the first Lee team to be listed in the NCAA Division II rankings. The Lady Flames claimed the twenty-first spot in the poll.

“This was a great year to learn and see what the conference has for us,” said Yelton. “We can look back on this year and know we have a better understanding of what it takes to be successful in the league. We certainly know that there is a higher level of competition, and we are pleased with the success that we had. We also know that we will continue to have to build and work hard toward success when we are eligible for postseason in 2015.”

**Runners Turn In Season’s Best at Championships**

Each Tommy Brown and his Lee men’s basketball team face a huge challenge as they move from the NAIA and Southern States Athletic Conference to the Gulf South Conference (GSC) and continue to process through the provisional stages of NCAA Division II. Brown and the Flames realize the overall quality of the GSC will be much better than the Southern States Athletic Conference. “We’ll have to play our best ever single game to win,” emphasized the Lee coach. “Everyone is very talented, and it is an extremely difficult and deep conference.”

The coach says North Alabama has everyone returning from a good team last season, and he sees Alabama-Huntsville as being really good in recent years. “They are always going to challenge and are very well coached. All Lee followers know that Shorter always has good talent.” He ranks North Alabama, Huntsville, and Christian Brothers as the clubs to beat.

Lee enters the new league with only two players with quality playing time from the 2012–2013 season. Junior Chad Lee gives the Flames a steady rebounding force, while junior Corey Billingsley can penetrate and also score from behind the 3-point arc.

Senior Brice Sharp missed last season with a foot injury, but he is back and is a lock-down defender. Sophomore Ivan Forhetz saw limited minutes last season and has enjoyed some good moments in early-season play. Senior Muniru Bawa is a 7-footer who could give his club badly needed help inside.

“It is very important that we get off to a good start, because we have so many new players who will be playing significant minutes,” said Brown. “We need to improve and learn in every game, especially during the early games, so the new guys can have a feel for the system and what is expected of them when it is time for conference games.”

“Team has a tremendous work ethic so far and should be a fun team to watch,” added Brown.
Six Inducted Into Hall of Fame

Lee Athletic Director Larry Carpenter led the ceremony where six new members were inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame on Nov. 1 at the annual Lettermen’s Banquet:

**Men’s Basketball**
- Greg Cain (1968–1972)
  - 1,210 career points (seventh on all-time scoring list)
  - 11.5 ppg (105 games)
  - 568 career assists (third on all-time assists list)
  - 5.4 apg (105 games)
  - 568 career assists (third on all-time assists list)
  - 11.5 ppg (105 games)
  - 1,210 career points (seventeenth on all-time scoring list)

- Jan (Dodson) Spangler (2004–2008)
  - Women’s Basketball
  - 1,396 career points (eleventh on all-time list)
  - Averaged 11.0 ppg (127 games)
  - Career rebounds (ninth on all-time list)
  - Averaged 5.6 rpg (127 games)
  - 2007–2008 WBCA and NAIA All-American
  - Three-time SSAC All-Conference
  - Two-time NAIA Scholar-Athlete

**Softball**
  - Single-Season ERA leader – 0.96 ERA in 2006 (fifth on all-time list)
  - Single-Season Strikeout leader – 185 in 2006 (third on all-time list)
  - Single-Season Innings Pitched leader – 204.0 in 2006 (fourth on all-time list)
  - Single-Season Winning Percentage leader – .833 (25-5) in 2006 (fourth on all-time list)
  - Career ERA leader – 1.29 ERA from ’05–’06, first on all-time list
  - 2006 NAIA First Team All-American (First in school history)
  - 2006 team advanced to Final 8 of NAIA National Tournament for the first time in school history.
  - 2006 SSAC regular season and tournament champions
  - 2006 Region XIII Runner-up

**Women’s Basketball**
  - Women’s Basketball
  - Career Goals – 118 from ‘04–’07 (first on all-time list)
  - Career Assists – 57 from ‘04–’07 (fourth on all-time list)
  - Single-Season Goals – 36 goals in 2007 (second on all-time list)
  - Single-Season Goals – 32 goals in 2004 (fourth on all-time list)
  - Single-Season Goals – 29 goals in 2005 (sixth on all-time list)
  - Single-Season Assists – 20 assists in 2004 (ninth on all-time list)
  - 2004 NAIA Honorable Mention All-American
  - 2004 SSAC Newcomer of the Year
  - 2005 NAIA National Tournament Offensive MVP
  - 2005 SSAC Female Athlete of the Year
  - 2004–2007 NAIA Region XIII First Team
  - 2005–2007 NAIA Region XIII Player of the Year
  - 2004–2007 NAIA National All-Tournament Teams
  - 2004–2007 SSAC Player of the Year
  - 2004–2007 SSAC First Team All-Conference
  - 2005–2007 SSAC Regular Season and Tournament Champions
  - 2005–2007 Region XIII Champions
  - 2005 NAIA National Tournament Finalist
  - 2006 NAIA National Tournament Elite Eight
  - 2007 NAIA National Tournament Semi-Finalist
  - Never lost a conference match

**Women’s Soccer**
  - Women’s Soccer
  - Career Goals – 118 from ‘04–’07 (first on all-time list)
  - Career Assists – 57 from ‘04–’07 (fourth on all-time list)
  - Single-Season Goals – 36 goals in 2007 (second on all-time list)
  - Single-Season Goals – 32 goals in 2004 (fourth on all-time list)
  - Single-Season Goals – 29 goals in 2005 (sixth on all-time list)
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  - 2004 SSAC Newcomer of the Year
  - 2005 NAIA National Tournament Offensive MVP
  - 2005 SSAC Female Athlete of the Year
  - 2004–2007 NAIA Region XIII First Team
  - 2005–2007 NAIA Region XIII Player of the Year
  - 2004–2007 NAIA National All-Tournament Teams
  - 2004–2007 SSAC Player of the Year
  - 2004–2007 SSAC First Team All-Conference
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  - 2006 NAIA First Team All-American (First in school history)
  - 2006 team advanced to Final 8 of NAIA National Tournament for the first time in school history.
  - 2006 SSAC regular season and tournament champions
  - 2006 Region XIII Runner-up

**Baseball**
  - Career Runs Scored – 253 (first on all-time list)
  - Career Hits – 310 (first on all-time list)
  - Career Stolen Bases – 113 (first on all-time list)
  - Single Season At Bats – 286 in 2008 (first on all-time list)
  - Single Season Hits – 111 in 2008 (first on all-time list)
  - Career Single Season Hits – 111 in 2008 (first on all-time list)
  - Single Season At Bats – 286 in 2008 (first on all-time list)
  - Single Season Stolen Bases – 113 in 2008 (first on all-time list)
  - 2006, 2007, 2008 SSAC First Team All-Conference
  - 2007 NAIA All Region XIII
  - 2008 NAIA World Series Charlie Hustle Award
  - 2008 NAIA World Series All-Tournament
  - 2005, 2007, 2008 NAIA World Series Appearance (The year 2005 was Lee’s first appearance in school history.)
  - 2005, 2007, 2008 SSAC Regional Champions
Annual Jack Souther Classic

The Lady Flames defeated Tennessee Wesleyan in the annual Jack Souther Classic on Nov. 16. Lee women’s basketball coach, Marty Rowe, created the Souther Classic six years ago and shared his thoughts about the annual event.

“This is such a special game for our program and me personally” said Rowe. “I met Jack when I was still at Brescia (Ky.) years ago, and our relationship grew over time. He cared about me and our team, not just on the court, but in everything we were a part of. Being able to honor him while he lived was special for our teams, and now getting an opportunity to continue his legacy with his family will be something we cherish every year.”

Scholarship to Honor Jack Souther

The Jack Souther Athletic Scholarship has been established in honor of the late Lee University women’s basketball, golf, and softball coach. He is the only Lee coach to ever serve as head coach in three different sports.

The scholarship will be equally awarded to a women’s basketball player and a men’s golfer annually, beginning in the fall of 2014. “His indelible spirit and passion for young people and athletics will now live on through the lives of future Lee student-athletes,” said Lee Athletic Director Larry Carpenter.

Jack’s daughter Shauna and husband Allan Hardin, daughter Vicki and husband JD Simmons, and son Kevin Souther announced plans for the scholarship at the annual Lee Homecoming basketball game on Nov. 2.

“The entire Lee University family and the Bradley County community lost a dear friend on Monday, April 29, 2013, when Coach Jack Souther passed away,” said Carpenter. “We miss him dearly, and he’ll always hold a special place in all our hearts.”

Donations are welcome and can be made to Lee University, Attn: Jack Souther Athletic Scholarship Fund; P.O. Box 3450, Cleveland, TN 37320-3450.

Men and Women Golfers Claim NCCAA National Title

With senior Courtney Shelton and sophomore Bernadette Little leading the way, the Lee women’s golf team completed a clean sweep of the NCCAA National Championship.

In only its fifth season of intercollege competition, the Lady Flames turned away solid competition from Dallas Baptist, Oklahoma Christian, and Point Loma (Calif.) to claim the title.

Shelton became the first Lee golfer to cart the NCCAA medalist honors back to Cleveland. After brilliant rounds of 68-69 in the two opening rounds, the Franklin, Tenn. native finished the 54-hole event with a 74. Her 211 total was seven strokes better than teammate Little’s 218 (second place). However, Little’s 71 was the tournament’s best score in the final round.

Not to be outdone by the women, the Lee men joined the Lady Flames in winning the 2013 NCCAA National Tournament. It is the first national championships won by the golf teams.


Freshman Shea Sylvester was Lee’s top tourney finisher. After back-to-back rounds of 70, Sylvester posted a 74 and placed third overall with a 214. Hunter Vest was one shot back after a 75 put him at 215. He placed fourth. Senior Matt Emery paced the Lee scoring during the final round. He came in with a 2-under 70 and finished with a 218—one shot back for a tie for ninth.

Freshman Adam Wright stepped up to help the Flames answer the charge by Dallas Baptist. He turned in an even-par round of 72 and tied teammate Taylor Davis with a 226 over 54 holes.

“This is something we will never forget,” said Coach John Maupin. “We are excited to be bringing two banners home to Lee University!”
Lady Flames Coming off 34-3 Year

Blessed with seven players who saw plenty of action in helping to direct the Lee women’s basketball team to a 34-3 record during the 2012–2013 season, Coach Marty Rowe has high expectations for this year’s club as it enters a new league (Gulf South Conference) and continues to advance past the provisional periods of NCAA Division II.

Senior, All-American guard Hollie German leads the list of returnees. She is followed by senior teammates Karley Mille, Rachel Lockhart, and Myriah Iles. Junior Jenna Adams continues to work inside and out, while sophomore Melanie Barker is an up-and-coming force. Junior Madison Lee missed the entire 2012–2013 season, but she has been at full speed in exhibition games. The Lady Flames lost to the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga by only two points.

Rowe said leadership by his seniors and Madison (Lee) is definitely the strong point of this year’s team. “This is a special group of people and players who deserve the opportunity to be part of Lee history again this season. Also, we feel good about our depth this year at all positions.”

The coach sees the Gulf South as being a strong, really solid, well-balanced league from top to bottom. He says, “Every team is well coached and well prepared, so this season will be a grind both mentally and physically. Honestly, there is so much parity in this conference, it is hard to separate the next several teams, and they are all quality programs.” Rowe spoke candidly when he stated, “Yes, it’s a tough schedule, but in talking to Mark Campbell (Union University coach) about what he did last year, we wanted to see where we stack up against good programs in this area. That’s why we reached out to schedule Bellarmine, Carson Newman, and North Georgia. We feel like this approach (against strong D2 programs) will give us a great gauge on recruiting in the future.”

Madison Lee is back in action after missing last year with a knee injury.
Douglas ‘65 and Wanda ‘63 LeRoy celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at Barnsley Gardens, Ga., with their family in August 2013. They have three children—Dina ‘88 (Steve ‘78) Rathbone, Donald ‘90 (Shannon Bishop ‘90) LeRoy, and Dara ‘94 (Robert) Carroll—and six grandchildren. Douglas currently serves with Second Billion Initiative and the Global Church Learning Center.

Patrick Daugherty ‘69, a medical oncologist, recently traveled with a medical team to provide care for the people of Haiti. Patrick received his Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee, his M.D. from the University of Alabama, and his D.Min. from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Becky, have three daughters and eight grandchildren.

H. Lynn Murphy ‘73 retired in May 2013 as a faculty member of Dalton State College at Dalton, Ga. While there, Dr. Murphy received the “Excellence in Teaching” award from the Dalton State College Foundation and was nominated for the same award at the state level. Since retirement, Dr. Murphy still serves Dalton State in an adjunct capacity. He and his wife of 43 years, Betty (Lee Library, 1970–1973) will continue their travels and enjoy their children and grandchildren. The Murphys’ younger daughter, Julie Murphy Scoggins, graduated from Lee in 1998.

Jerry Wood ‘75 lives in Cleveland, Tenn., with his wife, Pamela, whom he married on November 27, 2012, following their first date, which was less than a month earlier at the Homecoming 2012 Music Festival.

Alan ‘84 and Pam Schacht ‘84 live in Vero Beach, Fla., where Alan is a 26-year veteran with the Criminal Investigation Division of the IRS. After retirement, he began consulting for defense attorneys in South Florida. Alan says, “I felt like I needed to get back into full-time law enforcement.” He is now the fraud investigator with the Division of Consumer Protection for the Florida attorney general.

Anthony McDaniel ‘87 is lead pastor of Abundant Life Ministries in Florida. He has been to over 24 countries, traveling with teams from his church for missions. Anthony made sure to bring a Torch on his recent trip to Ethiopia and is standing with Bishop Hiruy Tsige (left), national overseer of Ethiopia for the Church of God. A team of six did three medical missions days, treated almost 400 people, preached and shared testimonies in five churches, and ministered in a prison of 1,800 inmates. They also brought a gift of $4,000 to Bishop Tsige.

Patrick Kariuki ‘89 is a professor at Milligan College in Milligan, Tenn. His recent autobiography, Never Underestimate God’s Child, takes readers from the foothills of Kenya to the Appalachian Mountains, as well as Patrick’s journey to college professor and minister at East Johnson City (Tennessee) Church of God. It was named “Book of the Month” in the September issue of Nubian News.

Scott Griffin ‘94 lives in Wilmington, N.C., with his wife, Elizabeth, and their three children. He holds a Master of Arts in church music from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Ashley Freer ‘99 was recently chosen as a 2013 “40 Under 40” honoree by the Fort Worth Business Press. Freer was selected from more than 200 nominees to be among the 40 distinguished professionals under the age of 40 honored for their contributions to both their profession and their community. Ashley is an account director with the Balcom Agency. Stuart Balcom, president and CEO of Balcom Agency said, “Ashley is all about going above and beyond. Whether she’s pursuing media coverage, perfecting a comprehensive strategy brief, or keeping the creative team on track, ‘good enough’ is never enough. And the results—for Balcom Agency and our clients—are as exceptional as she is. She is most certainly worthy of this recognition.”

Benjamin Holcomb ‘00 married Terrah Brinson ‘02 on April 20, 2013, in Cleveland, Tenn. The couple now lives in Chattanooga, Tenn., where Benjamin is a financial analyst for BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee. He received a master’s degree from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

Dale DaRon Henson ‘00 was recently named Gordon County Schools (Ga.) Teacher of the Year. Henson is a fifth-grade teacher at Red Bud Elementary in Calhoun, Ga., and is in his seventh year of teaching. Gordon County Superintendent Dr. Susan Remillard made the following statement about DaRon: “I consider him to be one of those extraordinary educators who will always put forth a wholehearted effort with amazing results!”

Christian Lambert Barnett ‘04, Grovetown, Ga., recently returned from South Africa where she witnessed the fruits of her investment into a community garden in Phakane, South Africa. Christian raised funds to equip villagers through an event called, “30 for 30,” where 30 women contributed who had been influential in her 30 years of life. The garden is worked by the people in the area, and it provides fresh produce for the residents, as well as the opportunity to have the pride and satisfaction that comes from working for one’s food.
Derek ‘04 and Sarah Smiley Eledge ‘03 are living in Chattanooga, Tenn., where Derek is working for the NBC affiliate WRCB Channel 3 Eyewitness News as a photojournalist and editor, while Sarah is a senior accountant with Kenco Logistics in Chattanooga.

Nathan ‘06 and Brittany Holcomb ‘06 have been married seven years and have two children. The Holcombs are teachers in Monroe County, Tenn., where Brittany is the head volleyball coach at Sequoyah High School in Madisonville, Tenn.

Jonny ‘07 and Lindsay Shein Alger ‘11 live in Indianapolis, Ind., where Jonny works as a soccer director at FC Pride Soccer Club. Lindsay is an athletic director and coach at a local Christian high school.

Aaron ‘07 and Rebecca Brown ‘09 are living in Cleveland, Tenn., where Aaron is a licensed clinical social worker, employed with Hiwassee Mental Health Center. He holds the Master of Science degree from the University of Tennessee.

Derrick Vanmeter ‘10 was recently appointed assistant professor of costume design at Youngstown State University (YSU) in Ohio. Following his graduation from Lee, Derrick earned the MFA in theatre design at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro. Derrick says, “My experiences at Lee set high expectations for how faculty interacts with students, both in and out of the classroom. It is my hope that I can carry a little bit of what made Lee so special wherever I go.”

Melody Bollinger ‘11 taught elementary music for two years in South Carolina where she received endorsement to teach gifted and talented students. She works for the South Carolina Education Association as the director of UniServ.

Submit Your Who’s Where Entries!

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

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

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

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When we think of you, a lot of words come to mind...

...and most of all - thank you.