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Lee University TORCH
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OPENING THOUGHTS from President Paul Conn

The recent passing of Dr. Ray H. Hughes brought a poignant reminder of a period of Lee University history during which four men with very similar backgrounds — James A. Cross, Charles W. Conn, Lamar Vest, and Hughes — led the institution for twenty-six years, from 1960 to 1986. Each of these leaders also served as general overseer of the Church of God, the denomination’s top executive position. Although the four men had different personal styles and led Lee through different challenges, all four shared what was in their time a critically important quality: a strong relationship with the denomination and superb skills in connecting the school to it. During the 26 years they led Lee, their instincts, personal relationships, and popularity within the church were an absolutely essential ingredient to the institution’s survival and success.

In each case, these presidents arrived at Lee from roles within the denominational structure, and returned to such positions when their time at Lee had ended. Both Vest and Hughes were popular younger men, still rising to prominence, who were appointed to the Lee presidency after earning national acclaim as director of the denomination’s Youth and Christian Education Department. In both cases, their success as president of Lee led directly to being elected as assistant general overseer — and later as general overseer — of the Church of God.

For Cross and Conn, that sequence was reversed. These two rose to the church’s top spot along different tracks, and upon leaving that post, were called on to lead their “alma mater” as president. In 1986, a major shift occurred in presidential selection at Lee. Recognizing the growing complexity and specialization of academic management, the Lee Board of Directors went to a new paradigm: seeking a president from within the ranks of higher education, rather than from within the ranks of church officials.

But for a quarter of a century, 1960 – 1986, the traditional formula was a different one, in which four “sons of the church” were called to provide Lee with strong executive leadership. Each answered the call, and each left his mark in a positive and memorable way. Only Dr. Vest remains today as a living personal link to that remarkable period of Lee presidential history. [As president of the American Bible Society, he is widely regarded as one of the nation’s most significant religious leaders.]

Hughes, Cross, Conn, Vest. To many young Lee University students in 2011, these are the names of buildings. But Hughes’ passing reminds us that these four names and these four men, over a twenty-six year period, gave shape and life to much of the institution which we know today as Lee University.

Ray H. Hughes Leaves a Rich Heritage

The former Lee president passed away on April 4, 2011. Read about his contributions and years of progressive leadership.

Graduation and the Class of 2011

A graduating senior shares his viewpoint of the weekend he has been anticipating for many years.

By Brady Callahan

A Legacy of Recruitment

Stan Butler is the next focus in the Legacies of Lee series. The former golf coach and director of admissions brought a lot of veterans to campus.

By Lena Barber

Several Headed to Nationals

Several spring sports teams made their way to national championships and World Series tournaments, including baseball and men’s and women’s golf.

By Lena Barber

Baseball and men’s and women’s golf.

By Brady Callahan

Stan Butler

Ray H. Hughes

Lee University

President Paul Conn

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Dr. Ray H. Hughes Sr., who served as president of Lee College for eight years, died on April 4, 2011, in a Cleveland hospital. Hughes, 87, was a Church of God minister who served in numerous administrative positions within the denomination, including the top executive office of General Overseer.

Hughes had suffered for many years from peripheral neuropathy, a painful neurological disease which affects the extremities.

Himself the son of a Church of God minister, Hughes attended Lee during the early 1940s when the school was called Bible Training School and located in Sevierville, Tennessee. After a successful early ministry as an evangelist, pastor, and administrator, the 36-year-old Hughes was appointed president of Lee College in 1960, at a time when the school’s prospects were fading and enrollment had sunk to barely over 300 students.

During his six-year presidency, enrollment rose steadily to a record high level of 894 students, in his final year of 1966. The dramatic enrollment growth was accompanied by the first significant upgrades of the Cleveland campus, including the construction of two new buildings — the current Higginbotham Administration Building in 1963 and the Beach Science Building in 1965. The school, then comprised of a Bible college, junior college, and high school division, also received its first regional accreditation for the junior college division under his leadership.

Other innovations during the Hughes presidency remain as stable traditions at Lee University today: the first Greek social-service clubs (Upsilon Xi, Alpha Gamma Chi, Delta Zeta Tau, and Sigma Nu Sigma) were formed; the Parade of Favorites pageant had its beginning; the evangelistic and witnessing emphasis of Pioneers for Christ began, and Lee Singers emerged from the old Touring Choir tradition.

Hughes was one of the first Church of God ministers of his generation to seek advanced educational degrees. He earned a B.A. from Tennessee Wesleyan College, a M.S. and Ed.D. degrees from University of Tennessee-Knoxville, all during his tenure as Lee president.

Following his first Lee presidency, Hughes moved into general church leadership for the next sixteen years, then returned to Lee as president for a second presidency (1982-1984), before resuming service as a denominational administrator.
Despite his effectiveness in the executive suite, Hughes always regarded evangelism and preaching as his primary calling. He was a popular camp meeting preacher and was in demand in pulpits around the world, from his earlier years as a teenage evangelist through the final months of his life. Students at Lee when he was president invariably recall his Sunday night chapel preaching as a central feature of campus life.

According to Lee President Dr. Paul Conn, “Dr. Hughes’ leadership represents one of the most significant individual contributions in the history of Lee. Darlia and I were Lee students during the last three years of his 1960-1966 term, which gave us a ‘front row seat’ to witness his extraordinary vision and accomplishments. It was truly a time of transformational presidential leadership.”

Conn also announced that the new men’s residence hall, currently under construction in the Brinsfield Row area, will be named in memory of Dr. Hughes. “I’m very happy that I was able to tell Dr. Hughes of this decision in mid-March,” Conn said, “and he will be greatly missed when this building is dedicated in his honor next September.”

It was all coming to an end.

The North Cleveland Church of God main lobby was filled with black caps and gowns that represented the largest graduation class ever in Lee University’s history. Having the pleasure to be part of that class, it was easy for me to see and feel the emotions in the room. Excitement, nervousness, and a bit of sadness were being exchanged between the soon-to-be graduates. As we all knew, everything we had known and done for the last four years, or so, was about to vanish.

A clear sky and colorful sunset was the backdrop of the first portion of Lee’s graduation experience. We all began our march out of the church, down the street, and into the crowded soccer field filled with proud parents, siblings, grandparents, and friends who came to support their loved one’s accomplishments. As the Commissioning Service began, President Dr. Paul Conn emphasized the tremendous journey that all Lee students have taken during their years pursuing a college education. He mentioned the service was “a night of informality, a night for the students,” and he further communicated that point by saying it was “a night to hear from the students.” And hear from them we did.

Six graduating seniors told a variety of stories as they talked about their unique Lee experiences. Joy, regret, sadness, and humor were just some of the things expressed in the well-written and well-delivered speeches. The evening concluded with all of us receiving our graduation gift from the university—our engraved Bibles. After all of us had excitedly raced across the stage for the first time, reality...
to dismiss toward good food, refreshments, and quality time with family and friends waiting for us in the rec center, Dr. Conn asked all the students who received a Bible that didn’t have their name, but another graduate’s name, to raise their hands. Everybody laughed as half of us raised our hands admitting to what Dr. Conn had predicted would happen—we would probably not get the Bible with our names on it. Prayer concluded the service, and I walked toward the reception feeling more unified with these graduates than ever before. We were one step closer to the goal we had when we first stepped foot on Lee’s campus: graduation.

Everything was set.

The music had stopped, the graduates, myself included, had all excitedly settled into the their seats, guests were sitting waiting for Commencement to begin, and just when Dr. Conn began to give his first words, an unexpected distraction suddenly interrupted the ceremony. A train began to whistle and blow as it ran down the tracks just behind Lee’s soccer field. The awkward and ironic timing of the sounds gave Dr. Conn a great chance to savor the moment for some early morning humor. “That, graduates, is a train,” he explained. “Sometimes, it makes a loud noise to let you know it’s coming.” The crowd continued to chuckle as Dr. Conn mocked the train as he begged for one or two more loud whistles and blows to interrupt graduation.

Before long, Dr. Conn was able to address the crowd, give recognition to parents, grandparents, siblings, and any other significant loved one who was present for a graduate, and introduce Lee Singers to deliver “My God Is a Rock” before the guest speaker took the stage.

Eugene Habecker, president of Taylor University, and a close friend of Dr. Conn, was honored to be the guest speaker of Lee’s 2011 Commencement.

The **Mace and the Marshall**

Some may wonder what’s the story behind the shiny orb at the end of the pole carried by a faculty member at the front of the graduation processional.

The item is called a mace and it goes back to the Middle Ages over 1,000 years ago. Kings and governors would have a person carry the mace who would lead the official party announcing that the King was present in his official capacity. Universities started the ritual centuries ago to announce that the president and the faculty are there in their official roles.

The mace is used during the three yearly graduation ceremonies and other special events, such as “Celebration” events at Lee. The carrier of the mace is the Marshall and since the mace’s introduction at Lee about ten years ago, the Marshall and bearer of the mace has been Professor of Education Dr. Mark Wickam. The mace was a gift to Lee University by the men of Upsilon Xi.
Tweets During Graduation

With the advent of social media in the past few years, Twitter has become especially popular to spread the word about what’s going on. Here’s some of the things posted on Twitter during graduation this year:

@notdarakillian really can’t believe im graduating today..so surreal.. hope i don’t trip
@elise marion we diiiiidd it. & we didn’t trip! wesssa graduated. @notdarakillian @aprilwilson417
@Smitherd I forgot to hug Dr. Conn!
@nikki_warner Joseph Weeks is an official college graduate! So proud! @LeeUniversity
@mark_casto I’m here at Lee U graduation. Congrats to Marc Ross, Lauren Bryant, Liz Gerow, Christina Mangham... Many more!
@chadwicksavage Train jokes. Love cpc.

Lee, Tharp and Conn Awards Given

The winners of Lee’s three highest awards given to graduating seniors on commencement weekend. By vote of the university faculty, Jenna Dunson, Brandon West, and Aaron Pickens were chosen as the recipients of the 2011 Zeno C. Tharp, F.J. Lee, and Charles Paul Conn awards respectively.

Jenna Dunson received the Zeno C. Tharp Award. Established in 1955, it honors the sixth president of Lee, and is presented to the student who shows the most promise for a future in Christian ministry.

Brandon West is this year’s recipient of the F.J. Lee award, named in honor of Lee’s second president, and presented to a senior who has demonstrated high standards of integrity, leadership, service, broad campus involvement, and academic excellence.

West majored in health science and plans to further his education in a physician’s assistant program. He has been accepted in two programs at Emory University and the University of Alabama.

During his time at Lee, West carried a 4.0 GPA, worked as a microbiology teaching assistant, a residential assistant, and a full-time police K9 officer. He was also recognized in the 2010 edition of Who’s Who Among American University and College Students.

Additionally, he has worked with medical missions in Ecuador and Honduras and volunteered with the Salvation Army and New Hope Pregnancy Center.

Aaron Pickens is this year’s recipient of the Charles Paul Conn Award, which is given to a graduating student who demonstrates the greatest promise of achievement in graduate or professional studies after moving on from Lee.

Majoring in biochemistry, Pickens graduated with a perfect 4.0 and plans to continue his education in medical school, being accepted to several programs including the University of Cincinnati, University of Tennessee Memphis, East Tennessee State University, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, and Wake Forest University.

In addition to several academic awards, involvements, and scholarships he earned, Pickens served on Urban Outreach trips to Nashville and Knoxville, as well as serving abroad on a summer medical mission to Guatemala.
President Conn announced the traditional “excellence” awards to three faculty members on commencement day. The following are excerpts from his presentations:

Excellence in Advising:
Dr. Kevin Brown

Dr. Brown is an associate professor of English who came to Lee with a Ph.D. in English, but returned to school to earn a master’s degree in library science and is currently pursuing a master of fine arts in creative writing. He teaches class full time, writes poetry, sponsors Sigma Tau Delta (English Honor Society) and still finds time to advise the largest number of English students in the department. The miracle is not just that he does it all, but that he does it so well. His department chair wrote about him, “I have observed firsthand the way Dr. Brown can transform a confused, complicated situation and transcript into hope and a positive plan for a confused student.” Few professors on our campus can match the reputation Kevin Brown has earned as a teacher who cares personally about his students.

Excellence in Scholarship:
Dr. Richard Jones

Dr. Jones came to Lee 13 years ago with a Ph.D. with a research interest at that time in Coptic Monasticism. He had already spent a year at Cairo University as a Fulbright Scholar. Since coming to Lee, he has continued his interest in Egypt and the Middle East, but he also broadened his scholarly scope to include studies in Latin America, and closer to home, in the Ocoee Region. Dr. Jones has studied and written about cultures around the world and has investigated Muslim emigrant communities in London and Toronto, migrant Arab groups in Chile, and early settlers in East Tennessee. Jones’ work as an archaeologist has taken him to a variety of remote places. He has worked with Lee University students or colleagues in Native American sites in Colorado, in Palestine on the Karak Plateau, and in Fort Armistead, a Cherokee Indian removal fort near Cleveland. One of the distinguishing characteristics of faculty at Lee is that they are so often willing to do scholarly research alongside their undergraduate students. In that respect, Richard Jones has been a model.

Excellence in Teaching:
Dr. Eric Moyen

The winner of the highest faculty award at Lee this year is a young man who has made a big impact at Lee in a short period. Dr. Eric Moyen came to Lee seven years ago to teach in the Helen DeVos College of Education. He holds the Ph.D. in education with earlier degrees in history. Students in his department of Health, Exercise Science, and Secondary Education regularly give Eric some of the highest evaluation scores in the university. We shouldn’t be surprised. Even as a doctoral student, he had already been identified as a gifted teacher, and was recognized with two awards for excellence in teaching at the University of Kentucky before finishing his doctorate. Here at Lee, in addition to his obvious skills in the classroom, he is energetically involved in many ways with students outside the classroom. He has supervised student teachers in Thailand, Greece and Africa. Two years ago we called on Eric to add to his classroom duties the leadership of our freshman year experience program, which he now directs with very positive results. Dr. Moyen’s research area is the history of higher education, which combines his training in history and higher ed policy. With that kind of background, he would understand more than most people that great institutions must be built of the talent and commitment of great teachers. We recognize that at Lee, and we believe we see such a person in Eric Moyen.
Stanley Butler was the Lee College Dean of Admissions. For many consecutive years in October he would travel to the picturesque alpine beauty of Bavaria, where eager young men and women would line up to meet with ‘Mr. Lee College’ to discuss their life after the military.

Sometimes he would bring guests or a singing group. It was obvious by the energy invested that a tour away from home evokes in the heart of a young soldier. During his annual visits to the Ministry to the Military Retreat in Berchtesgaden, Germany, Stanley Butler would bring pamphlets, tapes, catalogs, admission forms and the latest information on veteran’s benefits, sharing in the excitement of the possibility for these young men and women to attend his beloved school.

As a result of Stan’s recruiting efforts, the Lee administration established an Office of Veterans’ Affairs. By the early 1980s, over 300 former members of the military were enrolled as an integral part of the life of the college.

Stan Butler was born in 1923 in Dora, Alabama. He came to Lee in 1953, with his wife, Sybil, and their daughter, Linda, from Gadsden, Alabama with a B.S. degree from Jacksonville State University and an M.A. degree from George Peabody College. He was the first layman awarded the honorary doctorate at Lee College [1970].

By the time he retired in 1988, Dr. Butler had served in the administrations of five Lee presidents and had seen six generations of students enter as freshmen and graduate.

Dr. Butler was respected by colleagues at Lee and was known for his ability to collaborate. He would take an assignment and choose a committee to work with him to get the job done. He understood people’s abilities and strengths and he knew how to bring them together to complete the task. He was a team player who had a knack for building teams.

Many colleagues who worked with him have their own special memories. Paul Duncan, former dean of students, stated, “For many years, Stan Butler was the face of Lee College, especially in student recruitment and admissions. A very large number of alumni owe their decision to attend Lee to ‘Mr. Lee College.’”

Duncan went on to say, “Stan loved sports of all kinds and seldom missed a Lee ballgame, at home or away. He was responsible for the original name of the Lee basketball team, Vikings, which happened to be the same name as his Alabama high school team. This teacher and administrator left an indelible positive mark on the development and success of Lee College.”

Stan Butler was a champion of civic responsibility serving on boards of Cleveland Community Chest [United Way], Dollars for Scholars, YMCA, the Children’s Shelter Home, and Parkway Credit Union. Dr. Ollie Lee remembers Stanley Butler as an active member in the Cleveland Optimist Club, which sponsored many programs that promoted the development of youth in the community. Dr. Butler was nominated the Optimist of the Year in 1964 and 1971, served as its president and member of the Board of Directors.

‘Stanley Butler never forgot his humble origins,’ Lee said, “and was an example of consistent support for the interests and well-being of ordinary folks and of those who lacked the privileges so many take for granted. He knew how to be a steadfast friend.”

Former Lee registrar Wanda Griffith recalls first meeting Dr. Butler when, as a senior at Lee Academy, she received a note to come to his [principal’s] office. He told her she had earned the honor of valedictorian of her class. The following year she graduated from Lee Junior College [1961] and was offered a job. They worked together for 29 years. Griffith states, “Dr. Butler mentored and challenged me in many areas.”

Those who worked with Dr. Butler when he was in charge of Lee College Day remember his pleasant weather forecasts. As if he were still around, many of us still look to the sky expecting beautiful sun every year on that big recruiting day.

Dr. Butler was proud of his record of health and would report that he never missed a day of work because of sickness. Late in his life, however, Stan fought a battle with cancer. Stan and Hubert Black were best friends for almost fifty years. They prayed together, golfed together and their families often vacationed together. Hubert regularly took him for chemo treatments and was with Stan, holding his hand, when he died October 13, 1982.

There are thousands of Lee alumni who knew and remember Stan Butler, whose lives have been touched in some way by his association with this place we call Lee. It is impossible to recount all the conversations Stan had with people regarding education at Lee. Those conversations range from presentations to parents about opportunities for their children, to recruitment of prospective students, to presentations at professional conferences. Whether speaking to a convention of educators or to a young soldier yearning for opportunities, Stan Butler always communicated by his words and the life he lived the very special place that is now Lee University.

Lena Barber lived in Germany when Stan Butler made his many recruiting visits to Germany. Today, she is a counselor at Lee University.

In addition to his recruiting leadership, Stan Butler was a critical piece to the expansion of athletics. He founded and coached the men’s golf team at Lee. The annual golf classic is named in his honor, as well as the women’s softball field.

Legacies of Lee
Two Capital Projects Progressing on Schedule

A chapel and dormitory, the two major building projects on campus, are making steady progress toward completion later this year. The new three-story dormitory is complete on the exterior, with progress on the rooms to house more than 123 students getting closer to being ready by the time students arrive for the fall semester in August. When it opens, the new residence hall will be the anchor of a six-building, student-housing complex between Magnolia and Maple Streets.

Lee President Dr. Paul Conn announced in April that the new dormitory would bear the name of past president Ray H. Hughes who passed away on April 4, 2011 (see tribute this issue).

On the western side of campus, the new chapel building is getting an exterior of white stone which will give the house of worship one of the most distinctive looks of the more than two dozen buildings constructed over the past 25 years. The chapel will be an intimate worship setting with seating for up to 300 people. Once completed and a part of the campus landscape, student groups and alumni will no doubt wonder how Lee University existed without it.

The chapel is slated to open this fall.

The new dormitory set to open in August will be named for the late Ray H. Hughes.

A view of the north side of the chapel as workers finish the roof.

A new church complex is being built on the south side between Church and Parker Streets, the property is being progressively assimilated into the campus landscape.

The Early Learning Center program was the first to move into the facility, utilizing the former children’s area of the church located in the educational wing. Earlier this year the Lee University Developmental Inclusion Classroom (LUDIC) for autistic children also moved. Both programs vacated the Mayfield Annex, a former elementary school on the northern side of campus. The space opened up at Mayfield makes way for, among other things, an expanded art program and major slated to begin this fall.

A view of the north side of the chapel as workers finish the roof.

The dramatic arches of the sanctuary are nearly in place.

The new dormitory set to open in August will be named for the late Ray H. Hughes.

The Early Learning Center staff member April Swindle watches toddlers in the nursery room, which opens out onto a beautiful and spacious outdoor courtyard, one of the many upgrades realized with the purchase of the First Baptist property last year.

Church Street Annex ‘Grandfathered in’ to Campus

The former First Baptist Church downtown campus, purchased last year by Lee University, is now called Church Street Annex. Located on the south side between Church and Parker Streets, the property is being progressively assimilated into the campus landscape.

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A major addition to parking has been realized. Lee had used the church’s parking previously, but only a portion. Campus safety relocated late last year to a former house which was part of the former First Baptist campus. And, infrastructure improvements, such as bringing the buildings online with the campus network continue.

Other plans are still under consideration for the more than five acres and 30,000+ square feet of floor space. In the meantime, First Baptist continues to lease office space in their former location on Central Avenue, and Waterville Baptist Church has leased the sanctuary on Sundays for the next two years while a new church complex is being built on the south side of town.

Lee Day Attracts Students and Parents

Lee University hosted its annual Lee Day weekend on Friday and Saturday, April 1-2. The thirty-two hour, campuswide event brought in hundreds of prospective students, their families, and youth leaders from across the United States.

Some of this year’s Lee Day events included advance class selection, academic and club displays, “Major Discovery,” an event that helps incoming freshman find a major, a production performed by Lee University Theatre of “My Fair Lady,” as well as a block party for all guests to enjoy free food, music, games, and more.

This year also featured a multitude of sporting events. Both the Flames and Lady Flames were in action all weekend as men’s and women’s tennis, softball, and baseball all had games scheduled. Incoming students had the opportunity to try out for many of Lee’s athletic teams, including men’s and women’s basketball, men’s soccer, as well as the softball and tennis teams and the cheerleading squad.

Additionally, unique activities were offered for new students, parents, transfer students, and for specific high school grade levels. Some of the events included an information and financial aid seminar for parents, a transfer student information session, and special luncheons for high school seniors, juniors, and sophomores. Lee Day weekend concluded with the AT&T scholarship drawings with eight awards to incoming students.

Lee University existed without it.

Alumni will no doubt wonder how Lee University existed without it.

The chapel will be an intimate worship setting with seating for up to 300 people.
A new bachelor of arts degree in studio art is slated to begin this fall. According to John Simmons, assistant professor of art, “The initial emphasis will be in two-dimensional arts such as clay and sculpture and hope to have our 3-D arts involved as well.” Simmons said. “One component of launching the art major was hiring another full-time art faculty member to make the program a success. Chair of the department of History and Political Science, Dr. Randy Wood, said the hiring process started early last fall and chose Mary Mathias-Dickerson to fill the position. She will be moving from Arizona to take the position. “She has a really solid amount of experience,” Wood said. “It would have been hard to consistently offer the needed classes for the major without hiring another full-time professor.” As the major takes off, the professors involved are already looking to the future. “One of our goals is to have a dedicated space for an art gallery so that we will be able to better display both student and professional work,” Simmons said. Currently, students’ artwork is limited to the walls of the Humanities Center and in the Mayfield Annex.

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CAMPUS NEWS

ART DEGREE TO LAUNCH THIS FALL

two events associated with running and fitness have become anticipated with both alumni and the Cleveland community. Lee University once again hosted the Great Strides Walk and 60 Roses 5K to benefit cystic fibrosis. On April 9, more than 600 runners and walkers of all ages participated in the benefit, which consisted of the 5K, a one-mile “fun run,” and two mile walk. All three were festively staged in Alumni Park and the Paul Conn Student Union, with registration, inflatables and pre- and post-race food. The 5K and walk took in downtown Cleveland with a finish line stretched across 11th Street. Now in its ninth year, the Great Strides event has raised over half a million dollars toward CF research and has become one of the premier Great Strides events in the country. It has grown in participation and fund-raising every year. Student groups, organizations, businesses, and individuals have been involved through teams, corporate sponsorships, or individual pledges.

Another running event took place three weeks later as more than 100 Lee alumni participated in the Country Music Marathon and Half Marathon in Nashville on April 30. For the fifth straight year, Lee has hosted alumni the night before the event for a “pasta pig-out” at Buca Di Beppo in nearby Brentwood. This year more than 160 gathered for food, fellowship, and a commemorative T-shirt sponsored again this year by People for Care and Learning headed by Lee alum Fred Garmon ’80. Lee partnered with the organization and their event “Run for Hope” to aid orphans and families in Cambodia.

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Upsilon Xi Seeks to Raise $25,000 for Campus Gift

In 2012, the Lee University social service organization Upsilon Xi will be celebrating its 50th anniversary. To celebrate the significant milestone, current members and alumni of Upsilon are spearheading a campaign to raise $25,000 toward a gateway arch.

Founded in 1962, Upsilon is the oldest of the eight social service organizations on campus. When completed, the arch will be Upsilon’s second significant gift to the campus, the first being the clock tower built in the 1990s.

Spearheading the fund-raising effort is Upsilon alumnus and president of the Upsilon Alumni Association Joe Giove who reports that fund-raising is well underway for the arch project. As of mid-April, more than 83 percent of the goal had been reached in pledges and the group hopes to dedicate the project at their 50th celebration during Homecoming 2012.

To learn more about the project and how to donate, visit www.upsilonxi.com.

Student Teachers Venture to Thailand

Ten student teachers from the Helen DeVos College of Education at Lee spent nearly eight weeks teaching abroad at Bangkok Christian College (BCC) in Bangkok, Thailand.

The students completed their first practicum placement overseas and were led by Dr. Jo Ann Higginbotham, Professor of Education. All of the student teachers are working toward their elementary, middle grades, or secondary teacher certification.

The Bangkok trip is a part of the Teacher Education Program that requires all senior student teachers to complete two student teaching placements, one of which may be abroad and the other local.

Bangkok Christian College is a boys’ school with over 5,500 students in grades 1-12. It is considered the oldest private school in Thailand, offering a standard educational curriculum.

Approximately 85 of the more than 400 teachers are native English speakers.

“I never tire of introducing student teachers to this phenomenal experience, or of hearing their stories of how life-changing the teaching time was for them,” said Higginbotham.

“The Helen DeVos College of Education has had a relationship with Bangkok Christian College since 2005. The administration, faculty, and staff of BCC treat our student teachers as their own, and do everything they can to make their experience positive and rewarding.”

The ten participating student teachers were: Jessica Baker, teaching English in the BCC high school; Jessica Finley, teaching health and biology classes in the BCC high school; Sarah Bronson, Cara Solava, Brinney Wilkinson, and Kelly Wright teaching second grade; Alison Casey teaching fourth grade; Natalie Ballard and Maria Smith teaching sixth grade; and Alison Colkmire teaching eighth grade.

I now know that means each of these families received a box and the hope with their families.

Lee Staffer Shares Operation Christmas Child Experience

Operation Christmas Child has become an annual tradition at Lee University and probably in many of your homes. This simple project allows participants to pack a shoebox full of toys and hygiene items, and then the box is sent to war-torn and Third World countries.

Easy, right? But how much good does it actually do? I was able to find out this past January. Samaritan’s Purse, the international relief organization that sponsors Operation Christmas Child, invited me to represent Lee University in a box-distribution trip to Haiti.

Haiti was struck by a 7.0 magnitude earthquake on January 12, 2010, and the country is still trying to recover from the devastation. Thousands of people are still living in tent cities, families are still mourning losses, and 80 percent of the population is still living below the poverty line. We arrived in the country on January 31, 2011, in an airport still showing earthquake damages.

I was able to attend four box distributions in three days. Each distribution was sponsored by a local church.

The churches invite the children in the area, and the children are asked to bring friends. Anywhere from 150 to 300 kids would be packed into churches dressed in their Sunday best. The local pastors would start the service, and the kids would sing songs. The pastor would then share the good news with the kids, and we would pass out the Christmas boxes. In addition to the boxes, each child would receive The Greatest Journey, a booklet in their language about the gospel story. The church would follow up with a 12-week discipleship course for the children.

When we were passing out the boxes, the thought would sometimes cross my mind that this was not enough. This was just a box of toys and toiletries. These kids need so much more. But then I would notice their faces—so much joy, excitement, peace, and hope. Each box that was packed and we passed out was a story of hope to these kids. Each box reminded the people of Haiti (or wherever the box was sent) that God had not forgotten them. And the kids went home, even if the home was a tent or a shack, and shared the box and the hope with their families.

I was so honored to be a part of this trip, to see the joy and excitement in each child’s face. I was so impressed by Samaritan’s Purse; they know that the purpose of Operation Christmas Child is to share God’s love, and they share that love in a practical way. They also partner with the local church, empowering them to minister to their own communities by using the relationships they already have established. I am fortunate to work at Lee University, where we have collected 13,270 boxes over the past 13 years, because I now know that means each of these families received hope and were shown the love of God in a tangible way.
Ollie J. Lee Symposium Launched to Honor Retiring Professor

On March 24, 2011, the Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences held the first annual Ollie J. Lee Symposium to honor the Distinguished Professor of Sociology, and allow students in anthropology, psychology, and sociology to present their original research. Dr. Ollie Lee joined the Lee faculty in 1967, has served for 43 years, and has filled numerous roles, including serving as vice president of academic affairs, dean of College of Arts and Sciences, and chair of the Behavioral and Social Sciences. He officially retired at the end of this academic year.

Dr. Carolyn Dirksen, vice president of academic affairs said of Ollie Lee, “He has been one of the most significant architects of Lee’s institutional structure, including chairing the committee that wrote Lee’s present mission statement and formulating the institutional goals.”

The Ollie J. Lee Symposium featured 18 student presenters, six each in the academic disciplines of anthropology, psychology, and sociology. Research papers were also presented. “When we decided to create this event, the faculty of our department unanimously decided that we should name this symposium after our esteemed colleague,” noted Dr. Jeff Sargent, department chair of Behavioral and Social Sciences. He concluded, “We are really proud of the seventh group of our students who have been presenting at regional conferences. The Ollie J. Lee symposium will provide them with an opportunity to present their work locally and to an audience of their professors and peers.” The department plans to annually host the Lee symposium to honor Professor Lee.

When Ollie Lee arrived in 1967, Lee College was just beginning the transition from Bible college to liberal arts institution, developing the curriculum and procedures to offer baccalaureate degrees in disciplines other than religion, and Dr. Lee was very influential during that crucial period. He helped prepare for the accreditation review of the new majors, write the faculty constitution, and formulate the rights and responsibilities of Lee faculty.

Every faculty member and every student is touched every day by Dr. Lee’s foundational work,” Dirksen stated. “He designed the template for our course syllabi and stipulated the way we state behavioral objectives. He formulated the academic catalogue and established the method of course approvals. He directed our accreditation reviews and set up our procedures for academic assessment. He developed our faculty evaluation system and introduced the first student course evaluations.”

Lee was the first chair of the Graduate Council and led the writing of the graduate catalog. He chaired the General Education Core Task Force that redesigned core requirements, and he chaired the committee that directed academic aspects of the transition from college to university.

“The Lee University of 2011 is significantly different from the Lee College of 1967,” Dirksen said, “and much of the hard, behind-the-scenes work of that transformation has been done by Ollie Lee.”
Pope receives Ph.D.

Thomas Pope, assistant professor of political science at Lee, recently received his Ph.D. in political theory from Baylor University in Waco, Texas. Pope joined Lee’s Department of History and Political Science in spring 2010 and teaches courses in political theory and constitutional law.

“Political philosophy has always been a passion of mine. I particularly like the way that constitutional law seeks to incorporate the lessons of political philosophy into practical questions of law.” Pope’s dissertation explores the relationship between individual liberty and the common good in American jurisprudence.

Moyen Releases Book

Dr. Eric A. Moyen, an associate professor of education at the Helen DeVos College of Education and director of first-year programs, was recently honored at a book launch for his biography of University of Kentucky (UK) President Frank L. McVey, titled, Frank L. McVey and the University of Kentucky: A Progressive President and the Modernization of a Southern University. The book launch took place at the University of Kentucky’s campus in Lexington, Kentucky.

Moyen’s book explores the presidency of McVey from 1917 to 1940, and chronicles some of the most dynamic times in the university’s history.

“Eric A. Moyen has produced one of the best biographies of a modern American university president. Through lucid, accessible prose combined with meticulous research, Moyen succeeds in showing how McVey constructed the modern University of Kentucky,” said William Link, author of William Friday: Power, Purpose, and American Higher Education.

For more information on ‘Frank L. McVey and the University of Kentucky,’ contact Dr. Moyen at emo@leuniversity.edu. For purchase information, visit UPK online at www.kentuckypress.com, www.amazon.com, or your preferred bookseller.

Brendel Presents at New Zealand Conference

Dr. David Holsinger has been chosen by the international board of directors of Phi Beta Mu International Band Fraternity as the Outstanding Bandmasters for 2011. Holsinger, professor of music at Lee, will be presented the award later this year at the 2011 Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic. He is being honored for his nearly 30 years of service, nationally and internationally, as a teacher and conductor.

Phi Beta Mu International Bandmasters Fraternity was founded in 1939 and is comprised of band directors from around the world.

Along with the recent announcement of receiving the Phi Beta Mu award, Holsinger was presented with the ‘Al G. Wright Award’ at the 2010 Midwest Band and Orchestra Convention.

Holsinger joined the Lee faculty in 1989 as the conductor of the Wind Ensemble and has taught conducting, orchestration, and composition for the past decade. Holsinger’s compositions have won four national competitions, including a two-time ABA Ostwald Award. His works have also been finalists in the NBA and Sudler competitions.

The following Lee faculty received promotions in rank following the May meeting of the Board of Directors:

**Faculty Receive Promotions**

**Assistant Professor to Associate Professor:**
- Andrea Dismukes, D.M.A.
- Arden Jensen, Ph.D.
- Edley Moodley, Ph.D.
- Ashley Smith, Ed.D.
- Jeri Veenstra, Ph.D.

**Associate Professor to Professor:**
- Ron Brendel, D.M.A.
- Phelbe Gray, Ph.D.
- Skip Jenkins, Ph.D.
- Patricia McClung, Ed.D.
- Megan Moe, Ph.D.
- Louis Morgan, Ph.D.
- Sara Ortega, Ph.D.
- Jeff Sargent, Ph.D.
- Xiaoning Yu, M.M.
2011 Student Academic Awards

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Behavioral and Social Sciences
Anthropology
Psychology
Sociology
Healthcare Administration

Business
Accounting
Benton Excellence in Business
Computer Information Systems
Donald D. Rowe Management

Communication Arts
Communication
Theatre
Public Relations
Telecommunications

English and Modern Foreign Languages
English
French
Spanish
Interdisciplinary Studies
Sabord Woods Award

History and Political Science
History
Humanities
Political Science

Natural Sciences and Mathematics
Biochemistry
Chemistry
Biology
Mathematics Education
Health Science
Mathematics

HELEN DEVOS COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Biology Excellence in Student Teaching Awards (Fall 2010)
Elementary Grades
Elementary Grades
Music Education

Center for Adult and Professional Studies

Tiffany Stigile
Abigail Holliday
Sarah Dike
Erin Williamson

COLLEGE OF ARTS and SCIENCES

Humanities
Spanish
French

Behavioral and Social Sciences

Chairman

English

Communication

History

Mathematics

Children's Ministry
Discipleship Ministry
Intercultural Studies
Pastoral Ministry
Youth Ministry

Departmental Awards

Behavioral and Social Sciences

Business

Center for Adult and Professional Studies

Christian Ministries

Communication Arts

Early Childhood, Elementary and Special Education

Interdisciplinary Studies

English and Modern Languages

Foreign Languages

Health, Exercise Science and Secondary Education

School of Music

Scholarship and Music Education

Instrumental Church Music

Instrumental Performance

Instrumental Vocal Music

Vocal Music Business

Vocal Music Education

Vocal Performance

Vocal Church Music

School of Religion

Children's Ministry

Discipleship Ministry

Intercultural Studies

Pastoral Ministry

Youth Ministry

Early Childhood, Elementary and Special Education

Interdisciplinary Studies

Math, Science and Technology

Business

Public Relations

Communication Arts

English

Mathematics

Health Science

Natural Sciences

Interdisciplinary Studies

Health, Exercise Science

THEOLOGY

Dwaine Trswick

Hannah Godley

Reagan Daniels

Wesley Stide

Rich Spivey

Joan Jonee

Alan Ponce

Jordan Estes

Katie Jonee

Grayson Stid

Reagan Daniels

Kurt Millar

Drinkia Wride

Samantha Ford Stone

Running Like the Wind

The Lee University running teams are in the midst of possibly their most successful year, starting in the fall with women’s cross-country winning the Southern States Athletic Conference (SSAC) championship and continuing into the spring with several members of the outdoor track team qualifying for the NAIA Outdoor Track Championships.

Anna Hrushka, Maggie Opelt, and Erin Wassfall claimed three of the top five positions at the SSAC Cross-Country Championship to lead the Lady Flames to the title. Joy Hrushka finished ninth to make it four Lee ladies on the SSAC All-Conference Team. Joining those four on the SSAC All-Academic Team were Kristin Cretton and Sydney Phillips. Joy Hrushka, Cretton, Opelt, and Wassfall were also named NAIA Scholar-Athletes.

With the SSAC title in hand, the Lady Flames headed to the NAIA Championship, where they placed 19th out of 32 teams. Steve Snyder, Cole Whittaker, and Will Jayroe finished in the top 10 at the SSAC Championship to earn spots on the SSAC All-Conference Team and aid the team to a second-place finish. Adam Haney joined Snyder and Whittaker as the Lee representatives at the NAIA Cross-Country Championship. Snyder earned a spot on the SSAC All-Academic Team.

Anna Hrushka and Adam Haney were also named to the MUSCO Lighting Champions of Character Team.

Hrushka continued to add to her list of accomplishments during the indoor track season by becoming a two-time NAIA All-American in the One-Mile Run with a sixth-place finish at the NAIA Indoor Track Championships. “Anna ran a qualifying time of 4:35.89 [also a school record] in the 1500-meter run at Vanderbilt Invitational, and has had the seventh fastest time in that event in the NAIA,” said Coach Don Jayroe. “She has her sights on breaking a three-time All-American in the mile and 1500-meter events when she runs in the NAIA Outdoor Track Championships.”

Caleb Morgan and Mike Walker qualified for and ran in the national indoor meet. Morgan’s event was the One-Mile Run and Walker ran in the 3000-Meter Run. Also, Morgan qualified to run the marathon in the nationals by placing fourth (1:14) in the Nashville Country Music 1/2 marathon (13.1 mi.).

Torch // Summer 2011

NAIA All-Americans Anna Hrushka runs away from the field in a race at Emory University.
After finishing third in the Eastern Division of the Southern States Athletic Conference and being eliminated from SSAC tourney play by tournament champ Belhaven (Miss.) and Brewton-Parker, the Lee women’s softball team finished the 2011 season at 26-16. Senior Danielle Balough headlined the softball conference awards, being selected to the SSAC All-Conference team for the third consecutive season. Balough batted a team-leading .397, and also paced the team with 10 home runs and 45 runs batted in. The Lady Flames had three players named to the All-Division Team, representing three different classes. Senior Hernanza Ruíz, who missed the final part of the season with a knee injury, junior Brittany Balough, and freshman Ana Coscorrosa were all named to the division team, with Coscorrosa also representing Lee on the All-Freshmen Team. The softball team produced eight conference All-Academic performers in the 2011 season, tying baseball for the highest total among Lee spring sports. Representing the senior class are Danielle Balough, Kaitlyn Grosch, Taylor Horseman, and Lindsay Shein. Juniors Caitlin Beshears and Brittany Balough, and sophomores Savanna Bell and Kelli Crawford complete the list of outstanding student athletes. In addition to conference honors, Brittany Balough, Shrin, Horserman, and Beshears were also named NAIA Scholar Athletes. Beshears was the Lady Flames representative on the MUSCO Lighting Champion of Character Team.

The Lee women are just completing their third season of competition in NAIA golf, but when the 17th annual 2011 NAIA Women’s Golf National Championships begin on May 17 at Link Hills Country Club in Greeneville, TN, Coach John Maupin will have his Lady Flames paired against 25 other squads and going after the title. The 129-player field for the National Championships is comprised of 16 automatic qualifying teams from conferences/independents/unaffiliated group tournaments and nine at-large selections, which were determined by using the final NAIA Women’s Golf Coaches’ Top 25 Poll. Among the qualifying teams is defending national champion British Columbia. The Thunderbirds won the Association of Independent Institutions Tournament, combining for a 320-308—628 and Kylie Barros’ 80-71—151 garnered her medalist honors. She was followed in suit as British Columbia took home five of the top six places and was separated by a dozen strokes. The Thunderbirds will vie for their fourth title in program history, previously taking home the banner in 2001, 2004, and 2010. Four individuals earned a spot in the event as the medalist at their respective conference/independent/unaffiliated group tournament. The 54-hole event will conclude on May 20. Shorter, ranked No. 1 in the final NAIA poll is the only other SSAC team in the field, while Tennessee Wesleyan is serving as the host squad.
For the fifth straight year and for the sixth time over the last seven seasons, the Flames will be making a trip to Lewiston, Idaho and the NAIA College World Series. Lee defeated Shawnee State (Ohio), Culver-Stockton (Mo) and Indiana Tech to win the opening round of the national tournament at Olympic Field. The Flames outscored three opponents 32-4 over the three games.

Coach Mark Brew has taken Lee to the World Series five straight times. The Flames have finished as the runner-up during two of the last three appearances. Shay Crawford was the big award winner for the 2011 Lee baseball team, earning Southern States Athletic Conference (SSAC) Newcomer of the Year honors. The senior pitcher was also named to the SSAC All-Conference Team and the All-SSAC Gold Glove Team. Fellow senior, Michael Brown, also earned multiple honors, including SSAC East Division Player of the Year and SSAC All-Conference. Junior Chris Grayson was the third and final Flames player named to the SSAC All-Campus team. Sophomore Kris Hall and junior Justin Marrero each earned a spot on the SSAC All-Division Team. The Flames turned in strong performances in the classroom, as well, placing eight players on the SSAC All-Academic Team. Seniors Jay Bolen and Kris Dockery, junior Max Harvell, sophomore James Rechenbach, freshmen Klifford Hawkins and Rob Rowland, and redshirts Taylor Comford and David Eskew all earned their way onto the conference academic team. Dockery, Harvell, and Rechenbach also earned NAIA Scholar-Athlete honors.

Shay Crawford

**FLAMES LOOKING TOWARD WORLD SERIES AGAIN**

Editor's Note: Torch was going to press as the Flames vied for their place in postseason play, including the NAIA World Series.

TWO student athletes, Kayla Carlisle and Kris Dockery, have been named the 2011 winners of the annual Dr. Charles Paul Conn Student Athlete of the Year awards.

Carlisle, the daughter of Robin and Tracie Carlisle of Greer, S.C., has left her mark on both the Lee volleyball and basketball teams since transferring from Berry College two seasons ago.

In volleyball, she is a two-time member of the All-SSAC athletic and academic teams. The middle blocker is a NAIA Honorable Mention All-American and helped the Lady Flames post an amazing 47-7 record, reaching the Final Four of the NAIA national for two consecutive seasons.

In basketball, the gifted athlete was a leader of clubs that won 56-13 over two campaigns. She was a member of the SSAC All-East Division team, and in 2010, the Lady Flames reached the Final Four of the NAIA National Tournament.

"Receiving this award was such an honor," Carlisle said. "It has a much deeper, larger meaning than solely athletic awards. It is truly humbling for me."

Women’s basketball coach, Marty Rowe, said, "I'm so excited for Kayla to earn this prestigious honor. She is truly the meaning of a student/athlete and is very deserving of this award."

Volleyball coach, Andrea Hudson, echoed the same thoughts. "I really feel that Kayla is a great example of what the Paul Conn Award stands for. As a student, she excels in the classroom being a scholar athlete in both sports; but what is most important, she carries herself as a strong Christian athlete and is a shining example of excellence in all areas of her life."

Dockery, the son of Randall and Kimberly Dockery of St. Mary’s, GA, knows the meaning of being a member of one of the nation’s winningest college baseball programs. Over the past four years, the Flames have won 212 games and lost 47. The right-handed hurler is a two-time NAIA scholar and a three-year All-SSAC scholar.

Lee baseball reached a No. 1 ranking in the NAIA poll this season. In two of the past three seasons, Coach Mark Brew’s teams have placed No. 2 in the NAIA College World Series.

"It is a great honor to receive this award," Dockery said. "It was certainly unexpected. I’ve worked hard for four years—both on and off the field—and I give God all the glory. It’s very humbling."

Coach Brew noted, "Kris has lettered as a pitcher and served as our team chaplain for his four years at Lee. During that time, he has excelled in the classroom and has exhibited exemplary character both on and off the field. Additionally, he has been a tremendous asset in the leadership role for many great teams we have fielded over the last four years. He is very deserving and worthy of this honor. I am extremely proud of him."

Carlisle, Dockery chosen Athletes of the Year

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After finishing first in the 2011 South Collegiate DII Women’s Rugby Championship, the ladies of Lee University’s women’s rugby team moved on to compete in the USA Rugby Women’s Division II Collegiate Championships on April 16-17 as the number one team from the South region. Sixteen teams competed in two locations, San Diego, Calif., and Kissimmee, Fla., to determine the final four teams.

Following the championship matches, Lee ranked number 9 out of the top 25 teams in the nation. This is the highest rank in Lee women’s rugby history and a significant feat for this year’s team.

Head Coach Michael Freake said, “It has been an incredibly rewarding year, and Lee women’s rugby has continued to build a reputation for high quality, positive rugby.”

In the first round of the championship in San Diego, Lee faced a strong George Washington University team who controlled possession for much of the game despite a spirited defense from the Lee women. Though Lee played well with opportunities to score in the first half, the team was frustrated giving away penalties in the tackle area. With some positional changes in the second half, Lee managed to get more plays together towards the game’s end. Lee player Anel Echagaray put away a late game score for a final score of 20-5.

The team rebounded on Sunday, April 17 to beat Claremont College, Southern California’s number one seed, with a shutout performance. The ladies were able to dominate field position and play a fast-paced game with the forwards overpowering Claremont. Scorers were Kati Kunisch (2), Brittany Warth, Candace Barley, Anel Echagaray and Katie Reynolds with Jess Gray converting four tries for a 38-0 win.

Lee women’s rugby improved their performance from last year by winning the Rugby South Championship and coming home with one win at the National Championship. This is a notable improvement over last year’s results where the team placed number two in the south with no national match wins. Lee women’s rugby is making a positive contribution to the changing face of USA women’s rugby.

Assistant Coach Nancy Campbell said, “Each year this team adds new elements to their game. Participating in this tournament doubles that ability.”

Lee Women’s Rugby Team was officially established in the spring of 2007. The team is a nationally-competing collegiate rugby team that is run by students. Dr. Michael Freake, associate professor of biology at Lee, has been head coach since 2008. Nancy Campbell joined the Lee team in 2009 as assistant coach. Campbell played rugby while at Florida State University and is currently the director of women’s rugby for USA Rugby South.

Visit www.leewomensrfc.weebly.com to learn more about the Lee Women’s Rugby Team. For more information about the National Collegiate Championship or the DII Women’s Rugby visit www.rugbymag.com.
UPDATE YOUR PROFILE!
For those of you who keep up with your Lee classmates through Facebook and Twitter, don’t you appreciate it when someone posts a fresh new profile or update? Who’s Where is the same concept—only in print! If you haven’t updated your Lee “profile” in the last year, take a few moments and send us an update. Use whichever method is most convenient for you... but just do it! First us online and send us a message titled “Who’s Where Update.”

www.facebook.com/leeuniversity
www.twitter.com/leeu

1940s-1960s

Robert Moore Sr. ’47 was widowed in 2005. He is living in Cleveland, TN with his widow, Ruth Ann Casteel, whom he married in 2006.

Phyllis Thomas Simmons ’50, of Daleville, VA, passed away on March 12, 2011. She is survived by four daughters, seven grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. After a diverse career in education, she accepted a position as secretary-treasurer of the Chattanooga/Cleveland Retired Ministers and Widows Association. Helen would love to hear from classmates. (helenpetty29@yahoo.com).

1970s

Randolph Dillingham ’70 is married to Dianne Channell, and they have one daughter and three grandchildren. Randolph was a school administrator in the South Carolina public schools for 41 years. He is currently the director of the Anderson County Alternative School in Anderson, SC.

Billy and Linda Sue (Susie) Woodard ’75 have lived in Smith County, TN for the past 20 years. They are the owners of BTE USA, LLC. Susie holds a master’s and Ed.S. degrees, and she is currently the principal of a local school. Billy is working in the mining industry in the United States doing sales and contracting.

1980s

Angie Carr ’91 has served in ministry as a youth director, followed by the last 17 years as director of music ministries in the Methodist denomination. Angie supervises numerous music groups, including children’s choirs, orchestra, handbells, praise band, bluegrass band, adult choirs, and ensembles. Angie says, “Lee College prepared me best for understanding, sharing, and teaching that there are many different ways of worship!”

1990s

Becky Magargee Heisner ’92 is living in Leeds, AL with her husband, Danny, and four children. After receiving her master’s degree in education, Becky taught public school for six years and then became a stay-at-home mom. She now homeschools her children. She is also a swim teacher at the local YMCA.

Michael Vaughan ‘91, died on April 17, 2011, at his home in Cleveland, TN. He is survived by his wife, Greta, and son, Vincent. At the time of his death, Michael was owner of the GBECO insurance agency in Cleveland.

Michael Sned ’76 lives in Norfolk, VA where he is a real estate agent with Coldwell Banker. Michael says, “If you need to sell or purchase a home in the Hampton Roads area, call me at 757-286-6757.”

Donna Banks Gregory ’78 has two sons, lives in Hazard, KY, is employed at the Perry County Health Center, and is a member of the Maple Street Church of God.

Charles Lambert ’83, after working with Church of God World Missions, is now serving as director of ministry partnerships for the American Bible Society. He lives in Cleveland, TN.

Rick Campbell ’87 of Athens, GA, died on January 6, 2011. He was married to Grimes Campbell, his wife of 24 years, and they had two daughters. He received a doctorate from Fuller Theological Seminary and was president and CEO of INJOY Stewardship Solutions at the time of his death.

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Michelle Russell Flanagan ’93 lives in Orlando, FL, with her husband, Mark, and their two children. Michelle is a homemaker and has been a soloist for seasonal events throughout the city for many years. Michelle’s father, Tom Russell ’69, passed away last November, 2010. She is thankful for the legacy he left behind for her and her children. “He was an incredible father and friend to all who knew him,” Michelle says. “There will never be another ‘Golden Boy.’”

Ryan and Cindy Todd Niemeyer ’93 visited the ancient ruins of Ephesus with Torch while on a European trip. They have two children, and live in Oxford, MS. Ryan works for the University of Mississippi as director of the UM-Grenada Center and as an assistant professor, and Cindy works for CA Technologies as a software account manager.

Joseph Walker ’94 married Belinda on June 19, 2010. The newlyweds are living in Olmsted Falls, OH, and he works at Zin Technologies. Joseph is music pastor at The Dwelling Place Family Worship Center.

2000s

Tracey Thompson Johnson ’00 has lived in London and the Cayman Islands since graduation and currently lives in Middletown, NY with her husband and four children.

Sarah Lawson ’00 lives in the greater Cincinnati area where she works with the Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center as a pediatric endocrinologist.

Heath Bish ’01 recently moved to Providence, RI to serve as director of technology and information services for Sound Community Services, a CT-based mental/behavioral health agency.

Kirk Tolbert ’01 is married to Emily, and they have a two-year-old daughter. Kirk is an electrician, and he and Emily are involved in the worship team at Keith Street Ministries church in Cleveland, TN.

Adam Tyson ’01 and Rachel Tyson ’00 will move to Villanova, PA this summer where Adam will begin a family medicine residency with Bryn Mawr Family Practice. They have three sons, including their oldest, Abel, who has battled Neuroblastoma and suffered severe brain damage. The Tysons hope to obtain better services and healthcare for Abel in the Philadelphia area. You can read more about them and Abel’s story at www.caringbridge.org/visit/abeltyson.

Wallace Stutts ’02, was recently appointed executive director of the new Life Care Center of Hixson, Tennessee. This past September, Stutts received the Life Care Centers of America President’s Award, recognizing his performance as executive director at the Athens, Tennessee, center. Stutts said, “I feel very fortunate and privileged to be given this opportunity [to lead the Hixson facility]. I look forward to working with our team of professionals to provide the best care possible for our rehab patients and residents.”

Jonathan Blaker ’03 lives in Latrobe, PA and has been married for three years to Nicole. They have two children. Jonathan works with intellectually-challenged individuals and has plans to begin work on a master’s degree.

Ira Mark Smith ’95 recently returned to Tennessee after serving in ministry with his wife, Brenda, for over 10 years in Texas. They are currently serving as youth and children’s pastors at First United Methodist Church in Fayetteville. They have three children.

Dan ’98 and Renee Eason are pastors in Prosser, WA. Dan recently became district overseer of the Church of God tri-state district, which includes churches in Idaho, Washington, and Oregon. Dan has recently begun writing and had his first article published in the Evangel. The Easons have two grandchildren, and their grown children live in Alaska and California, with one child still at home.

Jana Pressley ’96 has accepted the position of director of Clinical Training at Wheaton College in the Graduate Psychology Department. In this position, she will be teaching graduate level courses as part of the faculty, in addition to representing the institution at the local and national level in the director of clinical training role.

A Facebook conversation turned into a mini ’1970s reunion’ as 27 friends from Lee College got together for an Atlanta Braves game. Those in attendance included, (front row) Rick White ’74, Jo Mikell McCutchen, Susan Barrons ’76, Eddie Rhodes ’76, Ros. 2: Joanne Anderson Pike ’75, Pam Cooper Lewis ’74, Nancy Neal ’77, Jimmie Luke Garrison ’74, Sherylynn Patterson ’78, Marcia Roop Rooks ’75, Janet Gill ’81, Mike Underwood ’80. Row 3: Jimmy Mikell, Bobby Pike ’70, Ray Davison, Jim Garrison ’74, Charlie Ford ’78, Debi Howell McMahan ’75, Jeff Thomas, and Jeff Pace.
Katie Monts Abril ’04 was selected Teacher of the Year at Mt. Gallant Elementary School in Rock Hill, SC, where she has taught for three years.

Cara Bain ’04 lives in Wheaton, IL where she works at CareNet Pregnancy Services of DuPage, a crisis pregnancy center in the Chicago area.

Casey Gallaher ’04 teaches physical education at Chilhowee Middle School in Benton, TN. He is married to Hollee Howard Gallaher ’03, a physician assistant in Cleveland, TN, where they live. The Gallahers have two children, including Easton Bo, born on April 12, 2011. Casey completed the Ford Ironman World Championship in Kona, Hawaii, last October.

Leslie Spearman Macon ’04 and her husband, Luke, announce the birth of their daughter, Leanne Kalea, born June 15, 2010. The Macons also have a son and live in Joliet, IL.

Faith Young Fitt ’06 and her husband, Gary, take Torch door-to-door near their home in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Crystal Joseph ’06 (left) and Kristi Wheble ’05, both big fans of the New England Patriots, recently took Torch as their guest to a Lions vs. Patriots game in Detroit.

Jeremy Krans ’06 and his wife, Erin ’06, welcomed their first child, Ephraim Aleksandir, on February 11, 2011. They are living in the Atlanta area.

Follow Lee Alumni in Cambodia!

Alumni Director Mitzi Mew, her husband, Ashley, and 13 other Lee alumni are traveling in the Southeast Asian country of Cambodia in June. Alumni are invited to travel with them as they visit Cambodia along with People for Caring and Learning. Alumni can travel virtually to Bangkok, Thailand, Siem Reap, and Cambodia to live and work with children and families in those areas. Using the travel blog, video journals, and updates through the Alumni Facebook and Twitter pages, alumni will be right there in the action, as those on the trip offer a cup of water in Jesus’ name. “We hope you will join us for this first-ever virtual alumni travel opportunity,” Mitzi stated. To register or receive early notification of the blog site, contact Mitzi at mmew@leeuniversity.edu, or call 1-800-533-9930, option 6.

Jason Snell ’06, of Boise, ID, married Karen Faucette on October 16, 2010. Jason is currently working for HP, providing tech support for the U.S. Navy and USMC.

Melinda Sexton Espinoza ’07 is living in Duluth, GA and works for Meredith Corp. at WGCL-CBS Atlanta as a copy editor.

Jill Hammond ’07 married Desmond Blue ’10 on August 21, 2010. The newlyweds live in Kennesaw, GA and are both working on their master’s degrees. Jill says, “We are loving life!”

Melissa Lopez Koettig ’07 recently married Stephan Koettig of Aypad, Germany. The two met while at graduate school in New Zealand and currently live in Miami Beach, FL, where Melissa is a client services representative at EFG Capital International Corp., a wealth management firm.

Myles Matsuno ’09 recently had his short film, “Under the Sun,” accepted to be shown at the upcoming Cannes Film Festival. His was selected out of 27,000 entries and premiered at the 48-hour film festival in Los Angeles this spring. Myles directed, edited, and shot about 60 percent of the video, while Lee alum Jonathan Smith ’09 shot about 40 percent. Eric Brown ’09 wrote the script, while Chris Garmon ’08 helped by doing some of the background music and sound design. Myles currently works for ABC in Los Angeles. To view the film, go to http://vimeo.com/20527872?

Robert ‘91 and Marla Sharp ’91, Andrea Tormaschy ’90, and Erin Myers visited a Feed My People children’s home in Nabiipeta, India, where they shared Torch with their new friends.
Mark Your Calendar!
November 4-5, 2011

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