

ECHOES

The Baptist College of Florida

Winter 2004



The
Baptist College
of Florida

Special
Year End Edition

BCF Music Department Presents a
Christmas Extravaganza



ECHOES

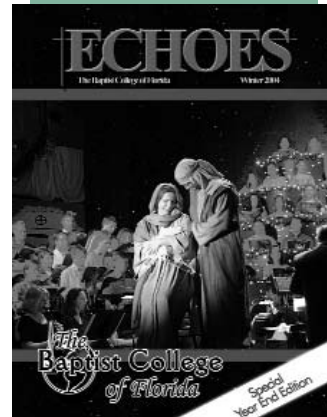
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Cover Photo: BCF's music department presents a Christmas Extravaganza.

Photo by Brandi Smith. Cover design by Heather Stewart.

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Statement of Mission
The purpose of The Baptist College of Florida shall be to promote, provide for, operate and control a program of education and training for ministers and other religious workers. The college shall operate as a coeducational, post-secondary institution awarding associate and baccalaureate degrees in the fields of theology, Christian education, church music, Christian counseling, leadership and education.

From The President A Sentimental Stupor



Dear Friends,

I am excited about our Special *Year End Edition* of Echoes. This gives me one more opportunity to share with you some of the blessings and joy of the campus during this most wonderful time. As I have told you before, I just enter into a sentimental stupor during the holidays.

This year has provided many very special blessings for The Baptist College of Florida. I want to be quick to thank our Lord for all of these. I am well aware that He uses people in His blessings. So many of you have been our Lord's agents for blessing the college during 2004. Thank You. Thank you for being who you are. Thank you for doing what you have done. Thank you for your prayers and friendship in the years ahead.

This issue of Echoes is full of the sights of the holidays. I only wish that we had the sound for you. It has been a time of celebration for all of us. We hosted the Holiday Homecoming on the Friday evening before Thanksgiving, and it was a wonderful success. The rain lifted just long enough for the festivities. Please mark your calendar for November 18, 2005 so that you can attend this great event next year. The Christmas Extravaganza was superb! It was the best production that I can remember at the college. Hats Off to Dr. Odom and all of those who worked so hard to make this a most meaningful time of celebration of the true meaning of the Christmas season.

I am especially grateful to our December 2004 graduating class for their class project. The scholarship for Dr. and Mrs. Lee is a most appropriate honor for two special people. As the Lees are continual blessings to the college, the scholarship will serve to bless students for years to come.

Please note the upcoming events for the spring conference schedule. This is a fantastic line-up. We would be delighted to see you at any or all of these events.

God Bless You,



THE LEGACY CONTINUES

There are a few people in each person's life who truly make a difference, leave a legacy and change lives forever.

For thousands of students and the members of 49 area churches, this person is Dr. J.W. Lee.

He has walked the halls of The Baptist College (BCF) for over 35 years, bringing with him each day a zeal for both the Word of God and his students.

Even today with wavering health as he fights a personal battle with cancer, he can always be found with a smile on his face encouraging students in their faith and work.

So, when it was time for BCF's fall senior class to choose a class project, they could think of none more appropriate than to honor this man who has touched their lives so profoundly with the establishment of a scholarship in his honor to continue his legacy at BCF well into the future.

Dr. Lee's journey at BCF began in 1969, just 16 years after the campus made the move from Lakeland to the rural community of Graceville in the Florida panhandle as Baptist Bible Institute. He has seen the college through two name changes, three presidents, and over 100 semesters.

While working at the college he has continued to serve the local church as interim pastor for 42 churches in Georgia, Alabama and Florida from 1969 to 2004. He has also written numerous publications.

As Senior Professor of Old Testament he is known for his tough classes including lectures that tediously expound verse by verse through each book of the Bible.

"Dr. Lee's classes were very demanding and challenging but the rewards far outweighed the demand because he makes the Old Testament come to life," recalls now BCF assistant professor leadership Dr. David Coggins of his days of study under Dr. Lee.

"He helped to lay a foundation of study in the Old Testament that is still a benefit to me in ministry."

Despite his all business attitude in lecture, his love for the students is obvious and they respond in kind.

In the fall of 2003 after being diagnosed with sarcoma cancer early in the year, one

of Dr. Lee's students traveled around campus with a video camera recording greetings and well-wishes from students, faculty and staff which she then sent to Dr. Lee at his treatment center in Texas to lift his spirits.

Now nearly two years into his battle with cancer, he continues to make it to campus as often as possible although he was unable to teach his classes this fall.

However, the long-time fixture on the campus is still helping to mold the ministers of tomorrow.

"Dr. Lee has a passion for the word of God . . . and a passion for teaching . . . and a passion for students . . . and for the Lord," explains

BCF senior David Rathel who presented the scholarship to Lee and wife, Joyce, during the Dec. 1 ceremony.

"We figured the best thing we could do is to help the students he loves so much," said Rathel.

As the couple walked to the stage to receive the plaque of recognition, the congregation stood in ovation with tears in their eyes.

"We established this scholarship to rec-

ognize you not only as a teacher, but as a friend," said Rebekah Fries who presented the plaque as emotion hung thick in the air.

True to form, Dr. Lee was not short of words for the occasion congratulating and encouraging the graduates.

"You have not gotten here coasting or easily. It has been difficult work and endurance, but . . . you're life is going to make a great difference in our world for Jesus Christ," said the revered professor.

"For the past years I have buried my heart and my life in this institution. I love it and God has ordained it," he finished.

BCF President Dr. Thomas A. Kinchen concluded the remarks stating, "Dr. Lee has

made an impression on you and it is one of righteousness." "Dr. Lee, we love you and God bless you."

The Dr. J.W. and Joyce Lee endowed scholarship will each year provide tuition assistance to one Biblical Studies major preparing for Christian vocation. Donations may be made to the scholarship fund by calling the office of Institutional Advancement at 800-328-2660, ext. 416.



◆ SUPPORT THE LEGACY ◆

If you would like to contribute to this scholarship, please use the attached envelope. Designate on the envelope and your check "Dr. J.W. and Joyce Lee Scholarship."

For more information, call 800-328-2660, ext. 416 or e-mail ksluke@baptistcollege.edu.

All donations are tax deductible.

Stay in
Touch
with fellow alumni



1970's

Ron Roberts (77) is currently serving as Associate Pastor at Summerville Baptist Church in Phenix City, AL. Ron may be reached by mail at 3500 Summerville Road Phenix City, AL 36867, by phone at 706-327-1171 or by e-mail to rloberts@knology.net.

1980's

Mark Chamberlin (84) is currently serving as senior pastor at Hilltop Baptist Church in Chula Vista, CA. He and wife, Anna (85), may be reached by mail at 1190 Neptune Drive Chula Vista, CA 91911 or by phone at 619-271-6578.

1990's

Peter (99) and Amy **Keough** and three children Haden, Austin and Kaitlyn

have relocated to Fort Polk, LA where Peter is currently assigned to the First Battalion (Airborne) 509th Infantry Regiment as the Battalion Chaplain. The family may be reached by mail at 5975-A Harrell Place, Ft. Polk, LA 71459, by phone at 337-537-8195, or by e-mail to Keoughs5@aol.com.

Mark McDowell (96) is currently serving as senior pastor at First Baptist Church in Brandywine, WV. Mark may be reached by mail at PO Box 89 Brandywine, WV 26802, by phone at 304-249-5767 or by e-mail to pastormcdowell@hotmail.com.

Roger Culpepper (98) may be reached by mail at 463 SE 71st Street Starke, FL 32656.

2000's

Jo Marin (03) is currently serving as youth pastor at Friendship Baptist Church in Fort Worth, TX while working toward a Master of Divinity degree at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, TX. Jo can be reached by mail at 4318 S. Henderson Avenue #202 Fort Worth, TX 76115, by phone at 801-301-7293, or by e-mail to cjmarin@charter.net.

Jeff Stading (01) is currently serving as senior pastor at Salem Baptist Church in Tampa, FL. Jeff can be reached by mail at 1712 East Busch Blvd. Tampa, FL 33612, by phone at 813-935-0738, or by e-mail to jstading@verizon.net.

Kyle (00) and Cara Luke (01) and son **Garet** have relocated to Dothan, AL. They may be reached by mail at 116 Elmwood Drive Dothan, AL 36303 or by phone at 334-699-3158. Kyle will graduate with a Master's degree in Public Administration from Florida State University in December 2004.

Todd (03) and **Faith Ward** have relocated to Lake Wylie, South Carolina where **Todd** is serving as Minister of Music for Lake Wylie Baptist Church. They may be reached at 5415 Highway 557, Lake Wylie, South Carolina 29710.

Danny (02), Shae (02) and **Madison Heath** are now serving at First Baptist Church, La Place as full time Minister of Music. **Danny** will

graduate from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary with a Masters of Music in Church Music in December of 2004.

Shaun Braley (04) has been named as the Music Assistant for the Church Music Division at The Baptist College of Florida. **Shaun** and wife, **Alison (04)**, are both serving at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Bonifay, Florida. The **Braley's** may be reached at 712 North Varner Street, Bonifay, Florida 32425 or by phone at (850) 547-2424

Deaths

Eugene Phillips who attended BCF 1957-59 passed on September 12, 2004.

Holiday Homecoming reminiscent of
Christmas of Old

The lights were twinkling and the sound of music filled the air as young and old alike meandered through The Baptist College of Florida's (BCF) Heritage Village at this year's Holiday Homecoming.

The November 19 event drew a large crowd of visitors to the turn of the century collection of homes, churches and a one-room school house that make up the village.

Picket fences were adorned with greenery and lights, and each building was decorated with old-fashioned decorations for the holiday season.

Several musical groups entertained the crowds from the center court with southern gospel music including the Basford Brothers Quartet and the Mount Gilead Quartet. A visit to the old Primitive Baptist Church brought the sound of Christmas tunes played by BCF's own College Winds.

Around every corner visitors found old-fashioned artisans demonstrating their craft. Children gathered throughout the night around the husband and wife team of Tom and Pam Thompson who were stationed in front of the gallery style Carlton House. Tom sat crafting baskets from thin strips of wood, a skill which has garnered him acclaim throughout northwest Florida.

Little girls watched enthralled as Pam helped them make dolls out of corn shucks while keeping a watchful eye on her nearby wash pot where her brew of homemade lye soap simmered over a propane cooker.

Later after she poured up the mixture, the children stood in wonder as she



The Basford Brothers Quartet entertained a large crowd with Southern Gospel favorites during the annual Holiday Homecoming event at BCF.



Pam Thompson, right, spent the brisk night surrounded by wide-eyed little girls intrigued by the crafting of corn shuck dolls.

let them feel how soft the finished bar became.

A sweet smell filling the air drew visitors to the opposite side of the village where they found a quilter and a blacksmith at work before stumbling upon the origin of the sweet aroma at the cane syrup kettle.

Smoke billowed in the cold night air as the syrup made of cane juice ground just a few hours earlier at the village

cooked to perfection. Those who held out until the end were rewarded with a taste of the perfected syrup to complete the blissful night.

The event is a long-standing tradition at the college previously held the first weekend of December as "Village Christmas." This year organizers moved the event to November and changed the name to "Holiday Homecoming" to kick off the holiday season.

The
Spring Conference
at
Series


The Baptist College
of Florida

February 7-9

Preaching Conference

with Fred Wolfe

President, Barnabas Ministries

February 14-15

Powell Lectures

with Danny Akin

President, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

March 28-30

Leadership Conference

with Tommy Green

Pastor, First Baptist Church of Brandon

April 25-27

Evangelism Conference

with Craig Connor

Pastor, First Baptist Church of Panama City

more info:

800-328-2660 ext. 446

ltice@baptistcollege.edu