

Lees-McRae Inducts Hall of Fame Class

Written by Whitney Noble

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The Lees-McRae College athletic department inducted three new members into the Fred I. Dickerson Hall of Fame on Friday evening, honoring its 2013 class of Jennifer Calderwood King '01, Amanda Cook Sorrow '02, and Ried Estus on a magical evening in McDonald Dining Hall on the Lees-McRae campus.

During what has become perhaps the signature event of Lees-McRae's Homecoming Weekend, alumni, staff, students, family and honored guests were on hand to watch three exceptional figures in Bobcat history enshrined in the athletic hall of fame.

"Congratulations to our new inductees, Jennifer [Calderwood King '01], Amanda [Cook Sorrow '02], and Ried [Estus]," said College President Barry M. Buxton in his opening comments. "Learning about you and all you have accomplished through Craig McPhail and his colleagues has been exciting for me. Each one of you has made us very proud, and we are grateful that Lees-McRae was your home, that you embraced it and transformed this place."

Jennifer Calderwood King, '01 women's volleyball

Calderwood dominated the Carolinas-Virginia Athletic Conference for two seasons as a member of the Bobcat women's volleyball team, winning back-to-back CVAC Player of the Year honors as well as AVCA all-region recognition in 2000. The two-time CVAC Tournament MVP totaled 1217 kills and 963 digs during her two-year career, setting single-season program records in kills (769, 2000) and kills per set (5.53,2000).

"I really enjoyed playing volleyball here at Lees-McRae," said King. "This school has been good to me and I am proud to have been a part of it. I had some really good coaching along the way, including coach [Jim] Lodes who [helped me] put it all together at the end for a strong finish. But I wouldn't be here without all my teammates, because volleyball is a team sport."

The two-time all-CVAC performer ranks first all-time in kills per set, second in points per set, third in total kills, fourth in total points, and fifth in digs. She led the Bobcats to back-to-back conference regular season and tournament championships, and was named to the All-Time all-CVAC team in 2006.

Amanda Cook Sorrow, '02 women's cross country

Cook starred for the Bobcats from 1998 to 2001, never finishing lower than second at the conference championships, while earning all-CVAC and all-region first team honors in each of

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her four seasons. The two-time academic All-American won the region as a senior, leading the Bobcats to four straight CVAC championships and a region championship in 2001.

“It was great to be part of a team of girls that was so dedicated to representing Lees-McRae College in the best way possible,” reflected Sorrow. “During the first two weeks I was here, I didn’t think I could stay in this one stoplight town, convinced that this wasn’t for me. But 15 years later, I’m still living here and I owe it all to this school for really bringing me to the High Country. I think this is the best place on Earth. I’m looking forward to watching this College grow, and I thank Lees-McRae for bringing me here.”

She recorded 21 top-10 finishes during her career, including 12 wins, while finishing 92nd at nationals in 2001. The Concord, N.C. native owns the school record in the 5k, 6k, and 4-mile. Cook was a two-time CVAC Runner of the Year, as well as the 2001 Southeast Region Runner of the Year.

Ried Estus, former women’s soccer coach and athletic director

Estus founded the Lees-McRae women’s soccer program in 1987, leading the Bobcats to a 199-82-8 overall record in 13 years as the head coach. Estus led the Bobcats to the NJCAA National Tournament in each of their first three seasons, earning regional coach of the year honors four times and compiling a 73-24-3 conference record.

“For someone like me, a simple-minded person who loves to work with their hands, this is as good as it gets,” Estus expressed. “If there were ever an opportunity during my lifetime to be inducted into the [Fred I. Dickerson] Hall of Fame, what a wonderful year [this is] alongside these two ladies. Dr. Buxton, thank you so much for this honor.”

In his 22 years at Lees-McRae, Estus wore a variety of hats in addition to the head women’s soccer coach, serving as the head women’s tennis coach, head softball coach, and a physical education instructor. Estus also served as the Director of Athletics from 1994 to 2009, helping the school transition from the NAIA ranks to NCAA membership. The Bobcats also won their first Joby Hawn Cup during Estus’ tenure in 2000-2001.

Nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains of western North Carolina, Lees-McRae College is a private, four-year college offering diverse baccalaureate degrees, strong athletic programs and outstanding faculty. With approximately 900 students hailing from 35 states and more than 10 countries, Lees-McRae’s broad core curriculum is enhanced by field-specific career preparation and experiential learning with an emphasis in leadership and service. For more information, please visit www.lmc.edu or call 828-898-5241.