

June 2023 Alumni & Friends Newsletter

Dean's Message

This semester was filled with student successes, hosting conferences and special events, and celebrating our graduates. We continue to position our students for success after Lander and to embrace the responsibilities of life. We remain pleased that alumni serve not only their organizations, but their communities. This can be seen in our Alumni News section below, as in earlier editions of the newsletter. This spring the College's students presented their research at five academic conferences (regional, state, and campus-wide), and some students won awards—competing against their peers from other institutions. Our faculty remain very strong mentors to our students.

Our April and May events celebrated Tim Snyder's 35 years of service; the faculty who earned tenure, promotion, and awards; and students who earned departmental scholarships, academic awards, and awards for student life contributions.

I had the honor of [speaking at the 3pm commencement ceremony](#), encouraging graduates to embrace their responsibilities: (a) to themselves; (b) to their family and friends; (c) to their chosen career; (d) and to their community. The community and public service by our alumni inspired my message in many ways. I also reminded students that they must continue to build relationships with others—just as they have on our campus—for a happy and meaningful life.

We continue to appreciate alumni as role models, donors, internship supervisors, and as volunteers to the campus. Send us your news and come visit us! And you don't have to wait until the fall. Greenwood's [Festival of Flowers](#) continues in June and the [Festival of Discovery](#) runs July 6-8. Go Bearcats! -- *Lucas McMillan*



Alumni News (including the Class of 2023!)

Vincent Addona '19 works as an investment banking analysis at MUFG in New York City. A transfer student from The College of William and Mary, Vinny was a political science major and baseball player at Lander.

Katelen Barger '11 is Child Services Manager at Beyond Abuse's Child Advocacy Center. Her psychology major prepared her to earn an M.S. in Applied Developmental Psychology from Clayton State University.

Alyssa Boulware '23, a psychology major, begins Lander's M.A.T. in Multi-Categorical Special Education this fall. She started her special education internship training at Merrywood Elementary this spring and our graduate program will prepare her for certification.

Courtney Cannon '19, a political science major, earned her J.D. from N.C. Central University School of Law in May.



Vinny Addona



Alyssa Boulware



Jessica Garcia



Mitchell Felton



Zoe Johnson

Mia Crankfield '23 starts law school at the University of Maryland this fall. She is pictured on page one with political scientist Dr. Kim Richburg.

Mitchell Felton '19 earned a Master of Divinity from Virginia Theological Seminary in May and was recently ordained as a Deacon in The Episcopal Church. A sociology major, he earned the Episcopal Preaching Foundation Award this spring. Rev. Felton joins the staff of St. Columbus, a parish in Washington, D.C.

Billy Garrett '78 is an attorney with The Garrett Law Firm and represents District 10 in the South Carolina Senate.

Jessica Garcia '12 is a Development Officer for the Self Regional Healthcare Foundation. A psychology major, she previously worked for other non-profits. Jessica is serving as 2023 Co-Chair of Greenwood's Festival of Flowers.

Alayna Harding '23 served as Lander's first social studies teacher to participate in Greenwood District 50's internship program. This spring she was mentored by **Gemma Perez '21**, last year's best first-year teacher at Greenwood High.

Gabbi Hart '23 will work with Disney after completing two internships through the Disney College Program. A human services major, she was inspired and motivated by Walt Disney since he succeeded despite having dyslexia.

Thomas Histon '23 will teach English in Vigo, Spain this fall. As a history/ social studies secondary education major, he earned many academic awards from our College and the College of Education.

Zoe Johnson '17 is Assistant Practice Administrator at Columbia Skin Clinic. She completed an MBA from USC Aiken.

Donna Knight '12 earned her second bachelor's degree, a B.A. in English, in May. She is the recipient of several staff excellence awards from Lander. She loves history and is Treasurer of the Friends of Ninety Six National Historic Site.

Austin Lathren '23 majored in political science with the emphasis in public administration and interned with the City of Greenwood. This fall he begins the Master of Public Administration (MPA) program at UNC Chapel Hill.

Olivia McFarland '23 will attend graduate school at USC's College of Education to become a school counselor.

Ryan McNulty '13 is an attorney at Foley & Lardner LLP in Jacksonville, FL. After playing baseball and majoring in political science at Lander, he served with AmeriCorps before earned a law degree at Georgetown University.

D.J. Stroud Moore '18 is Community Director for Clemson University's Honors Residential College. He is President-Elect of the S.C. Housing Officers Assn. D.J. majored in sociology and earned an M.Ed. from UNC-Wilmington.

Cornelius Morrison '17 is the owner of Revel Care, a holistic healthcare company that serves seniors and disabled individuals. A criminology graduate, the young professionals group of the Urban League of the Upstate spotlighted his business.

Veronica Orndoff '22 will begin the Master of Social Work (MSW) program at USC, building upon her sociology major and volunteer work as a student.

Nathan Seigler '23, a political science major, will pursue a M.S. in Emergency Management at Lander this fall.

Ra'Gin Slater '23, a human services major, will soon enter the MSW program at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte.

Winicque Washington '23 will attend Converse University's graduate program in Marriage and Family Therapy. After earning her A.A.S. at Greenville Tech, she completed her B.S. in Human Services through courses at University Center of Greenville and online while serving as a foster parent.

Sabrina Cheek Williams '14 was named Teacher of the Year at Fairfield Central High School. Her Lander experience prepared her well to teach history and she's become a school leader -- as Social Studies Department Chair, AVID Site Team Member, and Student Government Assn. advisor. She has recently joined Lander's Alumni Association as a board member.



Alayna Harding and Nathan Seigler



Winicque Washington



Sabrina Cheek Williams



Students benefit from career fairs regularly on campus.



This photo comes from the 1963 edition of The Naiad, Lander's yearbook.



This photo is used with permission from the [Index-Journal](#).

Alumnus featured in the *Index-Journal*

Harvey Peurifoy '63 was featured in the Apr. 28 edition of the *Index-Journal*. Now 99 years old, he served in Italy during World War II. After returning home, he put himself through Lander by working at Greenwood Mills' Mathews Mill as well as delivering papers for the *Index-Journal*. He majored in psychology and minored in sociology at Lander. He later earned a Master of Divinity degree from Emory University's Candler School of Theology. A member of the S.C. Conference of the United Methodist Church, Rev. Peurifoy served as a pastor of many churches from 1960-2001. He tries to set a good example for others, exercises a lot, and keeps up with technology. He even has a Facebook page.



Lander's Man of the Year

VP for Student Affairs Boyd Yarbrough announced **Luke Hopkins '23** as Lander's Man of the Year in an April ceremony. Named in honor of Rev. Samuel Lander, the individual chosen for this award must exhibit high aspirations and noble humanitarian qualities of character throughout all areas of campus life.

Hopkins was recognized by Dr. Yarbrough for having "dedicated his four years at Lander to serving the school as the president of multiple organizations, along with showing others what it means to love Lander as a Presidential Ambassador." The president of Psi Chi, the international honor society in psychology, he also held several leadership roles with Rotaract. In addition, Luke was the Honors College representative to the Student Government Assn. and participated in intramural sports. He has been on the President's List every semester.

"When I first came to Lander, I decided to take advantage of as many opportunities that Lander presented to me in regards to campus life, while setting high academic goals for myself," Hopkins said. He begins studies at the Charleston School of Law this fall.



High school essay contest sponsored by Mays Endowed Chair

This spring the Dr. Benjamin E. Mays Endowed Chair sponsored its first annual high school essay contest for students across the Lakelands. Coordinated by Mays Endowed Chair **Kevin Witherspoon**, approximately 200 students wrote essays which applied Dr. Mays' leadership qualities and his five core principles. Teachers nominated 50 essays to be evaluated by students in Lander's spring course on Dr. Mays and a faculty committee selected Baylee Wilson, of Abbeville High School, for first place; Rhett Allord, of Ninety Six High School, for second place; and Gray McCrea, of Greenwood High School, for third place. Students' teachers were also honored for their role

in mentoring students. Dr. Witherspoon was particularly pleased that this included May graduates **Thomas Histon '23** (an intern at Abbeville High School) and **Alayna Harding '23** (an intern at Greenwood High School). Learn more [here](#).

To help others learn about Dr. Mays, students in the Mays course and Dr. Witherspoon also created a traveling exhibit that was on display on campus but is now at the Laurens County Museum. It comes back to Greenwood to visit area schools, libraries, and community centers in the next few months. This is another outreach effort of the Mays Endowed Chair. *Pictured above (left to right) are: Thomas Histon, Baylee Wilson, Rhett Allord, and Alayna Harding.*

Student News

Avila-Cabrera accepted to Washington Semester Program

Citlali Avila-Cabrera '24 will spend the Fall 2023 semester in Washington, D.C. as part of the USC Honors College's Washington Semester Program. Over 25 Lander students have been selected for this program since Lander re-entered the consortium of 14 institutions across South Carolina. Students are full-time interns, take two academic courses, and live in a townhouse behind Capitol Hill.

Cici won a Duke Energy Scholarship to help cover expenses in D.C. in addition to the departmental and general academic scholarships that she had previously earned from Lander.

At Lander, Cici has excelled academically and serves as a Peer Tutor for political science classes in Lander's Student Success Center. She is active in campus life as an officer in both Somos LU and the Political Science Association.



Undergraduate Research Initiative proves successful

The College's students made presentations of their own research at five different venues this spring. These included regional, state, and on-campus celebrations—some aimed at undergraduates and others for faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates. Jonathan Bassett puts it best: "Undergraduate research is a great way to build critical thinking and problem-solving skills and presenting at external venues like this is an important experience that helps foster confidence and professionalism." The accolades detailed below would not be possible without strong mentorship from faculty.

Political science majors **Mia Crankfield '23** and **Nathan Seigler '23** made presentations at the **Southern Regional Honors Conference** in Charlotte. They were mentored by the political scientists and Lillie Craton, Director of Lander's Honors College.



Six psychology majors presented research findings and won **Best Poster Presentation** at the **Convention of the Behavioral Sciences** held at UGA in April.

The students (pictured left to right) were **Alondra Rodriguez '23**, **Kristin Thomas '24**, **Dasia Rhodes '23**, **Emily Ineson '23**, **Jeremiah Rosenbrook '23**, and **Sarah Beth Parker '23**. They won this conference prize for their research titled "The Rock of Anxiety and the Hard-Place of Intolerance: Ideological Rigidity and Political Conservatism in Relation to Death Anxiety and Reactions to those with Different Worldviews." **Jonathan Bassett** served as the students' mentor.



Students from across the College made presentations in **Lander's Academic Symposium**, a spring tradition to highlight research by undergraduate and graduate students. Over 100 students representing 15 different academic disciplines made presentations in the 2023 symposium. Faculty across the College served as mentors for students' projects.

The College also hosted two conferences on campus. In February, the **S.C. Political Science Association** annual meeting brought faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students from across S.C. and N.C. together. Rachel Vanderhill of Wofford College was the keynote speaker and participants presented papers from all sub-fields of political science. We were pleased that Lander students majoring in political science, history, and nursing participated. A faculty committee chose a paper on gerrymandering written by **Chloe Kirby '23** (pictured, left) for the **Byrd Award for Best Undergraduate Paper**. Chloe was mentored by **Ashley Woodiwiss**.

Matthew Malone was Program Chair for the conference and was elected SCPSA President.



Students from seven institutions and many social science disciplines gathered with their faculty mentors for the **Carolina Undergraduate Social Science Symposium** (CUSSS) in April. Lander students in criminology, political science, psychology, and sociology presented their research.

The keynote address was provided by **Lane Riley '12** (*pictured, left*). Riley made two CUSSS presentations when she was a sociology student, a path that later helped her to earn a master's degree in community development at Delta State University and have parts of her thesis published as a scholarly article.

After serving as director of Delta Hands of Hope, a Mississippi non-profit, Riley returned to S.C. to become an ordained minister of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. She is now CBF's Associate Coordinator and focuses on community development issues. In her address, Riley discussed her work on equitable housing opportunities in rural counties. **Zach Rubin** served as Program Chair. CUSSS is sponsored by the S.C. Sociological Association and **Daniel Harrison** is its current President.

Special Events across the semester

December: Graduate hooding ceremony

Last December a new tradition began at Lander: a graduate hooding ceremony. Since Lander offers more graduate degrees, it is important to provide this celebratory ceremony. Students across South Carolina and beyond earn graduate degrees, and some Lander staff take advantage of these opportunities. One example is Lander staff member **Deb Crenshaw-Nygro '22**, pictured here receiving her master's hood, having earned the M.S. in emergency management after years of coursework.



January: Holocaust Remembrance Program

Jan. 26 of each year is Holocaust Remembrance Day. With rising anti-Semitism across the nation, the College held a special program on Jan. 27 that was part of a series offered by First Presbyterian Church of Greenwood. The speaker (*pictured, right*) was Clifford Cain, Harrod-C.S. Lewis Professor of Religious Studies *Emeritus* at Westminster College, former member of Missouri's Holocaust Education and Awareness Commission, and a Presbyterian minister. Students and community members filled LC 300 for this lecture. **Ashley Woodiwiss** served as moderator.



Jan., Feb., and Mar.: Programs at The Arts Center

We enjoy seeing alumni, retired faculty, and friends regularly at Lander's **Community Lecture Series**. This series is partnership with The Arts Center and several College faculty have made presentations in the past two years. Stay tuned for the Fall schedule.

The College assisted with a grant from S.C. Humanities that enabled **exhibits and programming to showcase Gullah art, culture, and history** from January – March. Exhibits featuring the paintings of Jonathan Green and sweetgrass baskets filled the galleries and were accompanied by family fund days, lectures, and workshops. Many community members and students toured the exhibits, heard a lecture by Victoria Smalls (Executive Director of the Gullah-Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor), and listened to talks by Lander art and art history faculty members.

In this photo, gallery director Jennifer Smith (left) is pictured with Victoria Smalls (right).



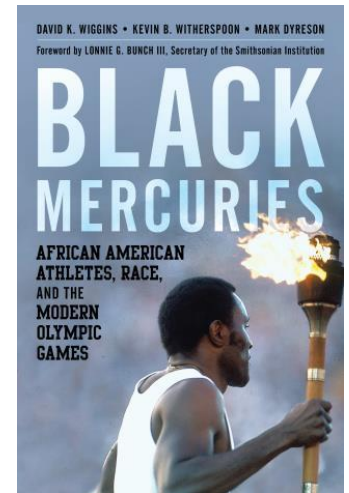


March: Jackson Lecture Series features historians

The 2023 Jackson Lecture Series featured Lander’s own **Kevin Witherspoon** and his two co-authors—Mark Dyreson, professor at Pennsylvania State University, and David K. Wiggins, professor emeritus at George Mason University—to talk about their book *Black Mercuries* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2023).

The book has been hailed by critics as “an essential source on African-American athletes and Olympic history” and the “first book to fully chronicle the struggles and triumphs of African American athletes in the modern Olympic Summer Games.” The book explores the varied experiences of Black athletes whose contributions in the summer Olympics have largely gone unrecognized as well as famous athletes such as Jesse Owens, Rafer Johnson (on the book’s cover), and Simone Biles.

Dr. Witherspoon and his co-authors are a “dream team of scholars” who have published widely in sports history and served in editorial roles of the discipline’s leading journals. *Black Mercuries* is Dr. Witherspoon’s third book. He has been a consultant to the National Museum of African American History and Culture. That museum’s founder, Lonnie Bunch, is now Secretary of The Smithsonian Institution and is the author of the book’s foreword.



April: College’s Honors & Awards Program

This Apr. 6 ceremony recognized students who earned academic awards or academic scholarships for 2023-2024 and celebrated new inductees and graduating seniors from our disciplinary honor societies. [Read about all award winners here.](#)

The Dean’s Award winners (*pictured left to right*) were: **Rebekah Marcengill ‘23**, **Mia Crankfield ‘23**, and **Anna Henriksen Sea ‘23**.



Rebekah majored in Psychology and minored in both Ceramics as well as Painting and Drawing. She published a poem and artwork in *New Voices* and presented a talk at the Southeastern Psychological Assn. Political science major Mia was a student-athlete, Resident Assistant, go-to ambassador, and spent a semester in Washington, D.C. History major Anna interned with The Greenwood Museum and had superb reviews of her work, enabling her to be hired as part-time collections manager. She was also a leader in student life. This award is for academic achievement, but willingness to take risks through high-level challenges in curricular or co-curricular projects, and contributions to university life.



Dept. of Government, Criminology, and Sociology students who won academic awards and departmental scholarships



Dept. of History and Philosophy students who won academic awards and departmental scholarships



Dept. of Psychological Science and Human Services students who won academic awards and departmental scholarships.

In the second photo, Department Chair Mandy Cleveland presents a student with a Psi Chi honor society cord to wear at graduation.



Lander ROTC News



Maj. Adrian Chen is pleased to report that eight ROTC cadets from Lander were commissioned as Second Lieutenants in the U.S. Army this spring. The ROTC Outcomes Metric List (OML) model puts Lander's program as #3 of 32 programs in its brigade—beating out institutions such as Duke and Howard. Two graduates were among the top 10% of the nation and **Lieutenant General Maria R. Gervais '87** has been accepted into the National ROTC Hall of Fame.

This photo from the Honors & Awards Program shows Maj. Chen with Cadet Gabriel Reyes and Cadet **Logan Ellis '23**. As the best senior cadet, Ellis earned the Col. James A. Lander Award. He also received the Psychology Discipline Award for the highest GPA in the major. Ellis served as the Battalion's Command Sergeant Major and finished within the top

10% of all ROTC cadets nationwide. He completed the Army's Air Assault School last summer and will serve as an Armor Officer in the Army, his #1 choice.





Three faculty earn tenure or promotion

Franklin Rausch earned promotion to Professor of History. As Associate Professor, he created 2 new courses for the Public History Emphasis and offers a total of 17 course preparations. His innovative teaching style often uses simulations and games. Dr. Rausch's mentorship has helped students present their work at academic conferences, in a Covid-19 project, and through a traveling exhibit to celebrate Lander's Sesquicentennial. As Associate Professor, Dr. Rausch has published one book, 5 journal articles, 6 book chapters, and 2 book reviews as well as made 12 presentations at national and international conferences. On campus, he led the Curriculum Cmte. and was a leader in assessment efforts. He also advises student clubs and is the campus Fulbright representative. His professional service includes work as assistant editor for a journal, editorial board member, regular reviewer of others' work, and consultant to an international council on monuments. His colleagues look to him for advice and students consistently rank him as an "excellent teacher."



Tess Gemberling earned tenure and promotion to Associate Professor of Psychology. As Assistant Professor, she taught 9 course preparations and created or revised several courses. Her active teaching style incentivizes student engagement and incorporates student feedback. She is now a course coordinator for the online delivery of PSYC 101. Dr. Gemberling's mentorship of 43 students has resulted in presentations at campus and state-level conferences and involved students as co-authors on scholarly manuscripts. She is a past winner of the Junior Faculty Teaching Award. As a scholar, she published 5 journal articles and made 7 presentations at regional and national conferences. In 2022, Dr. Gemberling's work was recognized with an award from the Society for the Teaching of Psychology. She has ably assisted departmental and

University service initiatives as an advocate and advisor. Her own creations include a graduate school professional development series for students.

Matthew Malone earned tenure and promotion to Associate Professor. With expertise at the nexus of several fields, his courses contribute to 4 majors and 3 minors. He has developed new undergraduate coursework in homeland security and new graduate courses in emergency management (as coordinator of the M.S. degree). Dr. Malone is a leader in online instruction, yet also receives praise for his face-to-face courses that include active learning and simulations. His advising work to students and student groups is laudable, and his professional and community service include several years of membership on the Greenwood Co. Emergency Planning Board and several years as an officer of the S.C. Political Science Assn. As a scholar, he has published 5 articles in journals, 6 book review notes, and made 11 conference presentations. He also earned FEMA Level 1 – Professional Continuity Practitioner certification. For his outstanding scholarly achievements, Dr. Malone won the **2023 Young Faculty Scholarship Award**.



Faculty Awards

Evan Blechle was named **2023 Part-Time Faculty Member of the Year** for his excellence in teaching PSYC 251: Abnormal Psychology and a new course that he co-created, PSYC 379: Personality Disorders. In both courses, faculty peers and students find that he is very responsive to students and works hard to engage them in the material and explain its application. Mr. Blechle earned an M.S. in Clinical Psychology from Augusta University and is a Licensed Professional Counselor. He was a staff member at the Beckman Center for Mental Health Services for several years and is now a counselor in private practice. Faculty peers and students both appreciate all of the expertise that Mr. Blechle brings into his teaching.





Jenna Pirok was named **2023 Part-Time Faculty Member of the Year** for her excellence in teaching three courses: Sociology of the Family, Medical Sociology, and Sociology of Mental Health. Dr. Pirok's courses serve students majoring in Biology, Exercise Science, Human Services, and Nursing as well as Sociology. Faculty reviewers note that she consistently exceeds expectations in online teaching, is dedicated to students, and works hard to engage students in course content. She earned a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Missouri.

Two sociology faculty members, **Daniel Harrison** and **Zach Rubin**, both won **2023-2024 President's Grants** to pursue research projects. Dr. Harrison will continue his project on the teachings of W.E.B. DuBois and Benjamin E. Mays. This is already a multi-chapter work and may become a new book, his third. Dr. Rubin will pursue a project to interview and collect information about military veterans living in intentional communities – defined as collections of people gathered as a permanent, settled group. Dr. Rubin's study will also

allow for comparative study of two institutions (military and intentional communities) that shape participants' daily lives. Lander students will assist his research.

Ryan Floyd has earned a **sabbatical in Fall 2023** in order to work on a forthcoming book that examines the building of a dam and Fontana Lake in western North Carolina. This project will be a work of Southern and environmental history because it discusses the modern South from industrial development by Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) projects and chronicles debates about the balance of conservation, recreation, and energy needs since the time of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Yet this project will center on the story of people and their communities. It is built upon archival records as well as interviews with persons affected by the Fontana Dam. In that way, it is connected to public history and issues of memory, the subject of a public history course at Lander. Dr. Floyd is an active scholar who has already published two well-received books as well as journal articles and book chapters.

In the arena of teaching, Dr. Floyd developed a course titled the "History of U.S. Wildlife Conservation," and has spearheaded Lander's new minor in Southern Studies.



Faculty Activities

Jonathan Bassett provided a webinar about his book, *Death on the Small Screen: The Psychology of Viewing Violent Television* (McFarland, 2022), for PsychAlive that earned continuing education credits for professionals in the field. He also presented a paper at a national conference this spring.

Mandy Cleveland, Jonathan Bassett, and Morgan Ferqueron '22 (a graduate student in clinical psychology) published an article in the *Psi Chi Journal of Psychological Research*. Dr. Bassett and Dr. Cleveland mentored Ms. Ferqueron at Lander.

Linda Carson presented a paper at the Southern Sociological Society meeting this spring.

Robert Figueira was elected to the executive council of the S.C. Historical Association. He was also selected to serve on a prize committee of the Medieval Academy of America.

Michael Graham has published articles in the *International Journal of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education* and *Journal of the First-Year Experience & Students in Transition* this academic year. Prof. Graham directs Lander's First-Year Experience program and is a faculty member in Psychology and Human Services as a Licensed Professional Counselor.

Laura Jean Kerr completed her Ph.D. in Sociology from Mississippi State University in May. Her dissertation focuses on food insecurity among college students, and Dr. Kerr is involved in Lander's Bear Necessities Food Pantry.

Sarah King has an article accepted for publication in the journal *Criminal Justice and Behavior*. Another article was recently published in the *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology* this spring.

Lucas McMillan was selected to attend the Council of Foreign Relations' College & University Educators Workshop and to participate in a virtual workshop sponsored by George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs. In May, he published a chapter in *The International Relations of California and Texas with Mexico and the World*, a new book within Routledge's series on foreign policy analysis.

William Ramsey contributed content for a "Resilience and Revolution: Native Peoples in 18th Century South Carolina," a traveling exhibit of the South Carolina State Museum. He also published a poem in the *Thema Literary Journal*.

Zach Rubin has a published lesson plan that was featured by TRAILS, a teaching resource for sociologists, and provided a lecture this spring for the Foundation of Intentional Community. He also made a presentation about artificial intelligence in the "teaching circle" sponsored by Lander's Center for Faculty Excellence. Dr. Rubin's forthcoming book chapter about singer Warren Zevon, is (unfortunately for fans) not titled "Send Lawyers, Guns, and Money."

Michelle Scott hosted an April event at the University Center of Greenville that featured a speaker from the SC Children's Trust to kick off National Child Abuse Prevention month. Students from Lander and Greenville Tech attended. Prof. Scott has helped to design new courses this year for Lander's new Pre-Social Work minor. She and **Prof. Zach Wilson** have established a new Human Services Club for students in the growing HUS major.

Shana Southard-Dobbs was co-presenter of a paper about students' growth mindset and teaching pedagogy at a regional conference and a guest on a podcast about the same topic. She teamed with a music theory professor for this interdisciplinary project about the scholarship of teaching and learning. Dr. Southard-Dobbs also made a presentation this spring in the "teaching circle" sponsored by Lander's Center for Faculty Excellence.

Kevin Witherspoon had a busy spring—beyond publishing his *Black Mercuries* book and making presentations on various campuses about it. He was co-author on a journal article published in *Passport: The Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations Review* and assisted with an exhibit curated by George Hirthler on the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta. Finally, he presented a talk for a Juneteenth celebration in Laurens.



Dr. Snyder, circa 1990



Dr. Snyder in 2023

Celebrating Tim Snyder

Dr. Snyder has been a stalwart contributor to Lander University across 35 years on our faculty. He has taught 14 course preparations as well as supervised internships and undergraduate research projects related to his areas of expertise in developmental psychology, gerontology, and child and family studies. In scholarship, he has published articles and book chapters with journals and presses, reviewed others' work, and made presentations at state, regional, and national conferences. He has a long and distinguished history of professional service to the S.C. Psychological Association as newsletter contributor, judge for its "academic day," and Chair of its Academic Committee.

Dr. Snyder has made extensive contributions to our campus. He served in several academic leadership positions as Department or Division Chair and as Chair of both Faculty Senate and the University's Tenure and Promotion Committee. He has been the chair or a member of a multitude of faculty searches and assessment committees. Colleagues know that Tim is a calm and steady presence in any environment, a believer in holding students accountable, and easily flashes a wry grin. He can be quick with one-liners. We will miss all these things.

A few years ago we started the **Timothy L. Snyder Scholarship** as a lasting legacy to Tim's career. We continue fundraising efforts, appreciate that Tim and his wife Cathy are donors to this fund, and welcome alumni contributions! We are happy that the University has named him *Professor Emeritus* and wish Tim the best in his retirement.



Giving News

Support from donors has allowed us to cross the threshold to endow the **Tannenbaum Study Abroad Fund!** Thanks to all who supported this fund to honor Aron Tannenbaum’s legacy as an outstanding teacher and mentor from 1975-2008, in political science, general education courses, the Honors International Program (now Lander’s Honors College), and study abroad opportunities. Dr. Tannenbaum (*pictured, left*) has contributed to this fund himself and is appreciative of all gifts. Additional gifts are welcome to increase the access of study abroad opportunities to all students.

We also appreciate those who have provided gifts to departmental scholarships, undergraduate research funds, and the College’s General Fund in recent months. Our current wants are to grow these accounts:

- Timothy L. Snyder Scholarship in Psychology**
- Deb Acorn Student Research Fund in Psychology**
- The College’s General Fund in the Lander Foundation**

The generosity of donors has allowed us to enhance much-needed support of students. We aim to start funds that would help provide summer support for students between the junior and senior year. Contact [Dean McMillan](#) to talk more about our needs.

To give, visit giving.lander.edu, call 864-388-8350, or mail your check to:
The Lander Foundation
320 Stanley Ave.
Greenwood, SC 29649



Join us at the **Fall 2023 events** and stay tuned for more events as they are announced. Don’t forget the busy seasons of Lander athletics! For info on alumni events, follow Lander Alumni Affairs on social media or contact our staff at alumni@lander.edu or 864-388-8351.

Special Speakers in Fall 2023



**Trevor N. McFadden, “Constitution Day Presentation:
The Oath Clause in Perilous Times”**

**Mon., Sept. 18
5:30pm**

The Hon. Trevor N. McFadden is a federal judge on the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. Nominated by President Donald J. Trump, he was confirmed by the U.S. Senate in 2017.

Abney Cultural
Ctr. Auditorium,
Lander campus

Judge McFadden earned a B.A. from Wheaton College and a J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law. He clerked for Judge Steven Colloton, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, and then joined the U.S. Department of Justice, where he served as Counsel to the Deputy Attorney General and as Assistant U.S. Attorney in the District of Columbia. Judge McFadden became a partner at Baker &

McKenzie in Washington, DC, where he focused on white collar investigations. After four years in private practice, he returned to the Justice Department, where he was Deputy Assistant Attorney General and acted as the second-in-command of the Criminal Division. Judge McFadden also has extensive experience in law enforcement as an officer with the Fairfax County, VA, Police Department and as a deputy sheriff in Madison County, VA.



A Celebration of Vernon Burton”

Join us for a conversation with **Orville Vernon Burton**, Judge Matthew J. Perry, Jr., Distinguished Professor of History at Clemson University. Dr. Burton will discuss his life and work, reflect upon his most important books (including *The Age of Lincoln* and *Justice Deferred: Race and the Supreme Court*); and share his thoughts about race relations, the civil rights movement, and the culture and politics of the South.

We are honored that **Bobby Donaldson** (Executive Director, Center for Civil Rights History and Research) and **Walter Edgar** (Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History) of the University of South Carolina will give brief reflections on Burton’s career.

Dr. Burton is the author of more than 20 books and nearly 300 articles. He is Emeritus University Scholar and Professor of History at the University of Illinois and his awards include the 2017 S.C. Governor’s Award in the Humanities, 2004 Asher Distinguished Teaching Prize (American Historical Assn.) and was the 1999 U.S. Research and Doctoral University Professor of the Year (Carnegie Foundation).

**Thurs., Sept. 28
6:00pm**

Abney Cultural
Ctr. Auditorium,
Lander campus

Lander University Community Lecture Series

The Arts Center of Greenwood and Lander continue their partnership for a series of six lectures throughout the academic year, so stay tuned for this schedule to be announced. Check out Lander’s main Events page (<https://www.lander.edu/events/>) for updates.



Got news to share?

We would love to hear from you! Send your update to smcmillan@lander.edu.

Read this newsletter online at www.lander.edu/cobss