

December 2021 Alumni & Friends Newsletter

Dean's Message

Happy Holidays! This fall we've enjoyed more in-person teaching and on campus efforts to energize residential students. Faculty and staff remain invested in welcoming and getting to know students. Professors provide quality instruction, whether with in-person, online, or hybrid courses, but embrace life-long learning as evidenced by their publications and conference presentations. As these pages show, Lander faculty also focus on mentoring students.

This semester we have been working to strengthen students' communication skills, an even bigger priority after prolonged experiences in virtual learning. Written and oral communication skills are a key foundation to the College's long-standing commitments to applied and experiential learning as well as team-building exercises. We work on enhancing these skills in our courses, opportunities outside of class, and in student organizations.

I was excited to see alumni at three events this fall: Homecoming in October, our program about the Mays Endowed Chair in November, and the campus's annual "holiday lighting" event after Thanksgiving. I hope that you'll join us in February, March, and April 2022 for five special events that are detailed on the last page.

As always, this newsletter highlights many student and faculty achievements, but begins with "Alumni News" because the role models that alumni provide showcase the true value of an education at Lander.

Thank you for the support you provide our students! -- *Lucas McMillan*

Alumni News

Hunter Burton '12 is a Lance Corporal K-9 officer with the S.C. Department of Natural Resources in Horry County.

His dog's name is Harlie.

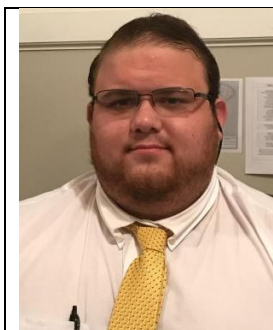
Molly Brunson '20 received the 2021 Clinical Employee of the Year award from Cornerstone, an organization that provides prevention, intervention, and treatment services for adolescents and adults impacted by substance abuse.

Mike Clary '13 is the Deputy Administrative Officer for the City of Abbeville. Much of his work focuses on community and economic development. He earned a Master of Public Administration degree after graduation from Lander.

David Connor '09 works for Abbvie, a pharmaceutical company, and lives in Greenville. He and his wife, Kirsten '12 recently welcomed a baby girl named Kennedy.

Chrissie Cofield Latimore '11 has been named President of the S.C. Police Chiefs Association. She serves as Chief of Police for Laurens, S.C. and is a part-time faculty member in Criminology at Lander.

Eryan Cooper '18 is serving in AmeriCorps in California.



Mike Clary '13



Tokay Hackett '93



Chrissie Cofield Latimore '11



James Simpson '85



J.D. Whitt '19

Ivey Gibbs '19 (pictured, right) graduated with an M.A. in Cultural Heritage and Resource Management from the University of Winchester in England.

Hayley Gibson '17 passed the Texas Bar exam and is an attorney with Cynthia Tracy, Attorney at Law, in Houston.

Tokay Hackett '93 is Staff Attorney in the Office of the General Counsel at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington, D.C.

Maddie Hudlow '20 and Professor of History Kevin Witherspoon presented a paper at the International Society for the History of Physical Education & Sport. Their research examined how, in 1893, John McPherson Lander introduced soccer in Brazil.

Zach Middleton '18 is studying for a Master of Liberal Arts at Winthrop University. Previously, he was Project Manager for Pioneer Construction.

Abby Silon '20 is studying for a M.A. in History at Winthrop University.

James E. Simpson '85 serves as Vice President, Department of Defense & Contracts for Longevity Consulting. He was previously Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisitions at the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services in Washington, D.C., a position he held after completing a career in the U.S. Army, retiring as Major General.

J.D. Whitt '19 is a District Executive with the Blue Ridge Council of the Boy Scouts of America based in Greenville, S.C.

Thelicia Destiny Weaver '21 is studying for an M.S. in Industrial/ Organizational Psychology at Valdosta State University. She has an assistantship with VSU's Office of Leadership, Technology, and Workforce Development.



*At Lander's Homecoming in October, alumni attended a new event called "Dine with the Dean" that gave them an opportunity to meet students from each College. The CoBSS event allowed Alumni Board member **Steve Bolton '69** (left) and Foundation Board president **Steve Wohlwend '81** (right) to meet political science major and current Student Body President **Courtney Clavel** (center). Both alumni served as Student Body President in their senior year, and enjoyed making this connection.*

*At this event, Mr. Bolton also met sociology student **Veronica Orndoff** and they realized that he had assisted her research on Greenwood's mill villages in spring 2021 while Veronica was a student in Dr. William Ramsey's HIST 385: Oral and Local History course.*



Student News

Semesters away in Washington, D.C.

History major and pre-law minor **Macy Gault** has been working on Capitol Hill for Congressman Tom Rice (R-S.C.) and taking courses through the University of South Carolina Honors College. She is joined by another Lander Honors College student (a business major) and 16 other students in this prestigious, state-wide program. Macy benefits from the W.D. Tinsley pre-law scholarship as well as the Barbara Jackson history scholarship, so she was excited to record a video that was played at [Lander's scholarship banquet](#) in October. It was a special treat for her donors in Horne Arena to hear Macy's words of thanks.

This summer Macy conducted research at the University of South Carolina libraries and at the S.C. Department of Archives and History for a project that builds upon her capstone research project, thanks to the **Cleland Student Research Fund**.



Political science major **Mia Crankfield** will spend the spring 2022 semester in Washington, D.C. She is an Honors College student who is active on campus as a Junior Class Senator, Peer Leader for LINK 101, and Resident Assistant. Crankfield benefits from the Bill and Emily Bradford Scholarship; Government, Criminology, and Sociology Scholarship; and an Abney Foundation Scholarship.

Both Macy and Mia's experiences demonstrate that Lander continues to provide outstanding internship opportunities for students near campus, within South Carolina, and far beyond.

Four PSYC students to present at regional conference

Shana Southard-Dobbs and her students **Seren Krishinger**, **Alicia Fulton**, **Rebekah Marcengill**, and **Gretchen Wanning** have two research projects accepted for presentation at the Southeastern Psychological Association conference in March 2022. These students are members of the *Stress and Cognition Lab*, and Dr. Southard-Dobbs has a strong record of mentoring students in preparation for presentations at external conferences. Some students' presentations at previous conferences have received awards.

These students' success is an indication of the College's need to raise more funds to enhance students' professional development. For PSYC students, gifts can be directed to the **Deb Acorn Student Research Fund**.



Human Services majors gain acceptance to Disney program, attend conference, donate to non-profit

Gabbi Hart has been accepted into the Disney College program for spring 2022. She will continue to take online Human Services courses through Lander as well as work in a variety of roles and take courses through Disney.



Students **Jade Stone**, **Lauren Dennis**, **Lilibeth Paez**, **Briana Lopez**, and **Jayla Mathis** attended the virtual conference of the National Organization of Human Services (NOHS) in October, thanks to professors **Michelle Scott** and **Brittany Aga**. Students connected what they learned to their HUS courses and provided feedback to the NOHS president so that the organization could better shape future conferences for students' benefit.



Students in Prof. Scott's HUS 322: Marriage and Family Therapy course heard from Kay Brooks of Thrive Upstate about her work with individuals who have brain and spinal cord injuries and how traumatic brain injuries impact the family system. After this visit, students were inspired to donate art supplies to help Thrive Upstate provide artistic outlets for their traumatic injury survivors' day program.

Faculty continue to showcase volunteer opportunities in the community.

Left: Kay Brooks of Thrive Upstate (left) and Michelle Scott (right).

*Right: In October, sociology major **Veronica Orndoff** (right) and criminology and sociology major **Brantlee Collins** (left) helped at the "Empty Bowls" fundraiser for the Greenwood Soup Kitchen. Both are members of Alpha Kappa Delta sociology honors society.*





Faculty News

Jonathan Bassett (*pictured, left*) received the Whatley Award for the best paper published in the journal *Studies in Popular Culture* in 2020, “Spies Like Us: Ideology and Futility in the FX Television Series “The Americans.”” Dr. Bassett learned this news while making a presentation at 2021 Popular Culture Association in the South conference. Another paper he has written has been accepted for presentation at the Southeastern Psychological Association conference in March 2022.

Mandy Cleveland and **Tim Snyder** made a presentation at the American Psychological Association conference in August.

Matthew Malone published a co-authored article entitled “Covid-19 and Local Emergency Management Operations” in the *American Journal of Management* this fall. Dr. Malone will present more research at the Midwest Political Science Association conference next spring.

Lucas McMillan has been elected to the board of directors of South Carolina Humanities, the state-wide organization that disperses funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities. In October, he made a presentation at the Council of Colleges of Arts & Sciences conference. A book chapter he co-authored entitled “Barack Obama, Intergovernmental Relations, and Economic Policy: Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something Blue” will be published by Palgrave Macmillan in January 2022.



Franklin Rausch (*pictured, left*) published a journal article entitled “Searching for Harmony Amidst Prejudice: The Thought of An Chunggün, Frederick Douglass, and John Brown” as well as a book chapter entitled “Colonialism, Imperialism, and Relations with Local Powers in Korea, 1876-1950” in fall 2021. Earlier this year Dr. Rausch gave three virtual presentations sponsored by academic institutes and universities, and he made two presentations at the American Academy of Religion conference in November.

Kimberly Richburg made a presentation at the summer conference of the National Social Science Association.

Zach Rubin won the Communal Studies Association’s outstanding article of the year award for “A Not so Silent Form of Activism: Intentional Communities as Collective Action Reservoir,” published in the journal *Humanity and Society* in late 2020. This is the second time that he has received this award. In teaching, Dr. Rubin’s students partnered with the local United Way in fall 2021 to conduct surveys across surrounding counties, projects that expose our students to learning about research methods and build community connections.

Michelle Scott made a presentation for the S.C. Women in Higher Education speaker series.



Kevin Witherspoon published a co-authored article entitled “A Possibility of a Lady Competitor’: Helen Preece and the 1912 Olympic Modern Pentathlon” in the *Journal of Olympic History* and edited his first volume of articles for the *International Journal for the History of Sport* as one of the journal’s editors.

Ashley Woodiwiss (*pictured, far left*) organized a Constitution Day program in September with *Index-Journal* editor Richard Whiting. The program covered the importance of the First Amendment, the role of the press in a democracy, and ways in which Lander and the *Index-Journal* have worked together on civic engagement in recent years. This event was included in the

[October 2021 newsletter](#) of the American Democracy Project, a non-partisan initiative of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. Read more in this [news release](#).

Programs in November highlight partnership between Lander and the Mays Historic Site

On Nov. 6, Lander hosted the [first event in a weekend](#) celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Dr. Benjamin E. Mays Historic Preservation Site. The evening began with the installation of **Kevin Witherspoon** as the Mays Endowed Chair. Lander officials thanked **Sally '75** and **Doug Kauffmann** for this significant gift to our College and the campus. Unlike most named professorships that revolve around a faculty member's research endeavors, the Mays Chair enhances Lander's connections to area schools and a historic site, expands our curriculum, and provides support for community-oriented programming.

Dr. Witherspoon is an award-winning teacher and mentor. As a scholar of diplomatic and sports history, his research frequently addresses civil rights and race relations. With two award-winning university press books, numerous book chapters and journal articles, he has been called upon to serve as a consultant to both the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture and the National Archives and has been interviewed by the BBC.

Chris Thomas, director of the Mays Site, was presented with a state-side "Fresh Voices in the Humanities Award" from S.C. Humanities for his work in the public humanities by Alice Taylor-Colbert on behalf of the SCH board.

The evening continued with Dr. Witherspoon moderating a panel of historians reflecting upon Dr. Mays' role as "schoolmaster" of the civil rights movement. Community members and students heard from Randal Maurice Jelks of the University of Kansas, John Herbert Roper of Emory & Henry College and Coastal Carolina University, and Orville Vernon Burton of Clemson University (*all pictured, right*). Each scholar has authored significant works about Dr. Mays, civil rights, and Southern history.

An event on Nov. 7 at the Mays Site included a performance by Lander's "Minorities on the Move" gospel choir and a presentation by Rev. Thomas honoring former Lander First Lady **Barbara Jackson** (*pictured, bottom right*) with a Mays Legacy Award. The Jacksons' children, Lander officials, and family friends were in attendance for this special moment.

The weekend's celebrations acknowledge that Lander's partnership with the Mays Site was decades in the making, beginning with Dr. Mays' 1974 visit to Lander College to receive an honorary degree as part of the presidential inauguration of Larry Jackson. In subsequent decades, Barbara and Larry Jackson joined with public officials and community leaders to draw attention to Dr. Mays, work that resulted in historic markers, awards to Dr. Mays before his death, and culminated with the opening of the Mays Site in 2011.

In the past 10 years, many Lander students have toured the Mays Site; a few have served as interns; and Rev. Thomas has served as a guest lecturer in courses. Since 2017, Lander and the Mays Site have partnered to host in-person and virtual events to teach students and community members about Dr. Mays. Lander students began benefiting from a special course on Benjamin Mays taught by Dr. Witherspoon in spring 2021.





Yates appointed as Assistant Provost

Jennifer Yates, a neuroscientist and experienced leader in faculty development, was appointed as Assistant Provost and Professor of Psychology in August 2021.

Dr. Yates previously served as a psychology faculty member and founding director of the Robbins Neuroscience Program at Ohio Wesleyan University, Senior Project Manager at the Rockefeller Neuroscience Institute at West Virginia University, and as Assistant Director of Faculty Development at the University of South Alabama. In addition to her published research and a grant from the National Science Foundation to support undergraduate research, Dr. Yates brings much experience in shepherding first-year experiences, student success initiatives, and in mentoring faculty for success in the classroom.

As Assistant Provost, she will build a new Center for Faculty Excellence at Lander. She has already been offering workshops and programming to enhance teaching and connections with students. We are excited that her faculty appointment is in Psychology and that her expertise will broaden and deepen opportunities for our students.

Giving News and Needs

Many of you have provided gifts to start or support scholarship funds, student research funds, an endowed chair, the Covid-19 crisis fund, and our College's General Fund. Unrestricted gifts allow us to assist students' professional development, defray costs of semesters away, or help folks in special circumstances.

We've raised **over \$10,000** for the **Cleland Student Research Fund** in History thanks to your generosity!

Like us, you have many deserving non-profits and religious organizations to support. But a gift to Lander can make a real difference in students' lives.

Our "holiday wish list" are gifts to these funds:

- **Acorn Student Research Fund** honoring Professor Emerita Deb Acorn **Goal:** \$5,000 by Dec. 31
- **Snyder Scholarship** – honoring Professor of Psychology Tim Snyder **Goal:** \$2,500 by Dec. 31
- **Tannenbaum Fund for Study Abroad** – honoring Prof. Emeritus Aron Tannenbaum **Goal:** \$3,750 by Dec. 31
- **CoBSS General Fund** – unrestricted gifts to benefit students **Goal:** \$5,000 by Dec. 31

Contact [Dean McMillan](#) or staff members in [The Lander Foundation](#) to talk more about these 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 for these events in spring 2022!



Feb. 3 at 5pm in Barksdale Recital Hall, Cultural Center at Lander

Roy Campbell, Professor of History at Presbyterian College, will discuss the diplomatic, political, and cultural elements related to China's hosting of the 2008 Summer Olympics and the 2022 Winter Olympics that begin on Feb. 4. Dr. Campbell has been honored with PC's Professor of the Year award and the S.C. Independent Colleges and Universities Excellence in Teaching Award. His talk will enlighten the audience on the role of China in today's world.



Feb. 17 at 6pm in the Abney Cultural Center Auditorium at Lander

Johnny Smith, Julius C. "Bud" Shaw Professor of Sports History at Georgia Tech, will speak about his book, *Blood Brothers: The Fatal Friendship Between Muhammad Ali and Malcolm X*. Dr. Smith is an expert on race, sports, and popular culture and his books have won several awards. In 2021, Netflix released a documentary [*Blood Brothers: Malcolm X and Muhammad Ali*](#), based on Dr. Smith's book. A showing of the film is offered **Feb. 16 at 7:30 pm** in Learning Center room 200.



Feb. 28 at 5:30pm in Abney Cultural Center Auditorium at Lander

Holly A. Pinheiro, Jr., Assistant Professor of History at Furman University, will discuss his research as part of Lander's **2022 Jackson Lecture Series**. His book, [*The Families' Civil War: Black Soldiers and the Fight for Racial Justice*](#), will be published by UGA Press in June 2022. Dr. Pinheiro, himself the child of military veterans, researches the experiences of black soldiers and their families, before, during and after the Civil War. His ground-breaking research leads us beyond the combat experience itself, shedding light on the lives of soldiers as well as their wives, children, and parents. Dr. Pinheiro's work reflects on how the nation treated its wartime heroes long after the war was over.



Mar. 15 at 6pm at The Arts Center (old Federal Bldg.) in Uptown Greenwood

Zach Rubin, Assistant Professor of Sociology at Lander, will provide a presentation entitled "The Commune: An American Tradition." This is an event within Lander's new **Community Lecture Series** that started in fall 2021. A reception begins at 5:30, and the talk starts at 6pm.

Dr. Rubin's research focuses on the cultural study of intentional communities, their society, ethnicities, and processes within their communities. The author of several journal articles, his writing has won awards from the Communal Studies Association.

Apr. 7 at 4pm – College Honors & Awards Program, Abney Cultural Center Auditorium at Lander

Happy Holidays!

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

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