



EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION:

Lander Sports Management Students Work The Super Bowl

By Malik Griffin

For most sports management students, the idea of working behind the scenes at one of the biggest sporting events in the world seems like a distant dream. However, for a select group of Lander University students, this dream became a reality. Under the leadership of Professor David Zinn, a seasoned professional in sports management and former athletic director, students had the opportunity to work at Super Bowl LIX, gaining invaluable hands-on experience in event operations.

Behind the Scenes at the Super Bowl

For the students who participated, the Super Bowl wasn't just an event it was an intense, hands-on learning experience that put their skills to the test in a high-stakes environment. As part of the NFL Fan Experience, they played a key role in organizing interactive activities for fans, from running passing drills to coordinating the Flag Football event where NFL players scrimmaged with kids.

On game day, they took on the crucial responsibility of greeting thousands of staff members arriving for their shifts, ensuring smooth operations behind the scenes.

Among the standout performers were Olivia Dow, Charlie Beiers, Jackson Pare, Amani Melendez, and Gracie McCoy, who went above and beyond throughout the entire week. "I was impressed by and thrilled with the performance of Olivia, Charlie, Jackson, Amani, and Gracie," said Professor Zinn. "These five students represented Lander in a phenomenal manner on a huge stage, exceeding the high expectations I had for this program." Their dedication, professionalism, and ability to adapt to the fast-paced demands of a massive event like the Super Bowl showcased not only their individual talents but also the strength of Lander's Sport Management program in preparing students for real-world success.

Key Takeaways and Industry Connections

One of the biggest lessons from the experience was recognizing that the same skills needed to run a small-scale event on a college campus are also required to coordinate a global sporting spectacle. Students gained a new appreciation for the planning, organization, and leadership that went into ensuring a seamless experience for fans, sponsors, and athletes alike.

In addition to their hands-on work, students had the chance

to interact with industry professionals. They met representatives from organizations like The Adinek Talent Group and Moonshot, companies involved in hosting major events such as the Olympics, Wimbledon, and the World Cup.

A Journey into Sports Management

Professor Zinn's path to academia began with 12 years of coaching women's college basketball, followed by roles as an Athletic Director at two NCAA Division III institutions. While excelling in administration, he realized he missed the day-to-day interaction with students, which led him to pursue teaching as a career. His passion for hands-on learning is evident in his dedication to providing students with real-world experiences, culminating in the Super Bowl opportunity.

For Zinn, taking students to this major event was a natural extension of Lander's experiential learning approach. Over the past three years, students in the Sports Management program have gained experience working at events like the RBC Heritage PGA Tournament, Peach Belt Conference championships, and the SoCon Volleyball Championship. The Super Bowl, however, presented a unique challenge and learning opportunity.



The Future of Experiential Learning

While attending the next two Super Bowls in California may not be feasible, Professor Zinn is already setting his sights on Atlanta 2028, when the big game returns to the Southeast. In the meantime, students can look forward to other upcoming opportunities to work at major sporting events closer to home.

For students considering a career in sports management, Zinn offers straightforward advice:

"Get involved, actively seek opportunities for real-world experience, be prepared to work, and know that pursuing a career in sport management just because you 'love sports' or are a fan of a certain team is not going to get you very far."

The students who worked Super Bowl LIX now have a major event on their résumés, along with a deeper understanding of what it takes to succeed in the industry. Thanks to opportunities like this, Lander University's Sports Management program continues to bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world application—preparing students for the dynamic world of sports.

Swingin' Medallions Scholarship Benefit Performance



By Karen Petit

The Swingin' Medallions, a Southern tradition since 1962, are returning home to Lander University – the college of choice for many of its members over the past 63 years – for a benefit concert on April 10.

Proceeds from the event, scheduled for 7-9 p.m. at Lander's Finis Horne Arena, will benefit the University's John G. and Jayne B. McElrath Scholarship. General admission tickets are \$20 each and are available at www.lander.edu/medallions. Along with enjoying a diverse blend of music from the classics of yesterday to the tunes of today, concertgoers will also be able to take advantage of a dance floor near the stage. Sponsorship opportunities with premium seating are also available. To purchase a table, contact Adam Taylor, Chief of Staff and Vice President for Strategic Initiatives, at 864-388-8195 or ataylor@lander.edu.

"Greenwood has always been home for us, and Lander University is a big part of this community," members of the Swingin' Medallions said. "We're honored to take the stage and give back by supporting scholarships that help Lander students chase their dreams. Come dance, sing along, and make a difference with us – because together, we're keeping the music and the future alive!"

Touted as appealing to audiences from "age eight to 80," the band had its origins in 1962 as The Medallions, when John McElrath (Class of '67) and his Lander friends would hang out in Ninety Six and listen to R&B music that was emanating from a nearby bar. By 1965, the group added "Swingin'" to their name, and they became famous the following year with their hit album, "Dou-

ble Shot of My Baby's Love." The band's best-known song was even banned from some airwaves for lyrics considered too suggestive for the era.

Band members have changed over the generations, but the group's signature high-energy style is timeless. The band has included actor Grainger Hines, of Greenwood; McElrath's sons, Shawn and Shane, both current members; Joe Morris, the band's original drummer; and Carroll Bledsoe, an original member of the band and author of *An Insider's History of the Swingin' Medallions*. Chris Crowe, Josh Snelling, John Smith Buchan, Richard Loper, Marcus Gul-len, Ronnie Goldman (R.G.), and Mackenzie Walden are also current members of the group.

Regardless of the decade and the change in musicians, the Swingin' Medallions remain overwhelming favorites with college audiences, as well as experienced rock-and-rollers. In 2009, Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band invited the group on stage during his concert in Greenville to perform "Double Shot." Springsteen labeled the song, "The greatest fraternity rock song of all time."

John McElrath passed away in 2018, but his legacy – and that of his wife, Jayne – lives on through the scholarship at Lander. Established in 1999 by friends and family in memory of Jayne, a 1966 Lander alumna, the scholarship is awarded to an incoming freshman or transfer music student interested in performance.

"Music has the power to bring people together," members of the band said. "Your support means the world – not just to us, but to our local students whose futures we're shaping together."

The Netherlands

Student Gains International Experience

By Guadalupe Taryn Rapp-DeFriesse

Madison Pigford, a Lander senior double-majoring in political science and international studies, took the opportunity to study abroad in the Netherlands, where she gained firsthand experience with international decision-making bodies and deepened her understanding of the immigration process.

Pigford's time abroad not only enriched her academic knowledge but also provided her with valuable networking opportunities, allowing her to connect with professionals and peers who share her passion for global affairs.



Madison's academic schedule abroad was structured yet dynamic, with classes running from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily, and each day, she had a different subject. After class, she would often spend time in the library working on assignments before heading out with friends to explore the city. They made it a point to visit new places every day, immersing themselves in the local culture, experiencing the Netherlands beyond the classroom.

Beyond academics, the experience challenged Madison to step outside of her comfort zone, adapt to new cultural environments, and develop resilience in the face of unfamiliar situations. She credits the experience with solidifying her commitment to working in immigration, as she was able

to witness the complexities of policy and integration processes firsthand.

For students considering studying abroad, Madison strongly encourages thorough preparation. She advises speaking with multiple past participants to gain different perspectives, researching the destination extensively to understand cultural and logistical expectations, and, most importantly, fully committing to the experience. While adjusting to a new country can be challenging, she said she believes that the personal and professional growth that comes from studying abroad is transformative and well worth the effort.

Lander Podcaster



By Ja'Sean Lawson

Paris Briggs, a Lander senior Marketing and Management major with a minor in Media and Communication, decided to take a leap of faith and begin her podcasting journey in August of 2023.

She decided to use XLR Lander's radio station because of her primary intended audience which is college students. Briggs' main goal for starting this podcast was to provide an outlet for her and her peers to share thoughts and feelings on various relevant topics.

The name of Briggs' podcast has recently been rebranded from "Speak Your Truth" to "The Giggles and Gossip Podcast."

The main reason for her rebranding was that she wanted to steer away from purely serious topics and focus more on fun, relatable content for college students.

Having a platform to be able to voice her opinions has been a dream for Briggs since middle school. She explained that she has been able to make that dream come true while at Lander.

Briggs released her first podcast of the Spring semester on Wednesday, January 29th. It can be found on XLR Lander Radio on the website, or in the app.

XLR Lander Radio



Arts Center of Greenwood:

Upcoming Bachelor of Fine Arts Show

By Georgia Salley-Oliver

With the end of the semester right around the corner the excitement building for seven graduating Bachelor of Fine Arts students as the BFA show is coming up this April.

Art Professor Douglas McAbee, the coordinator of the class and show, explains the importance of both, "Our BFA degree is a professional degree, that prepares students for jobs, careers, or grad school after graduation. One of the ways we do that is we provide a professional level experience, and that's having a solo show."

Students have been working on their pieces for the show with the number of pieces varying from student to student.

Tori Taylor will be using canvas and acrylic paint for her show and stated, "My current portfolio is about my current DND (Dungeons and Dragons) campaign. DND is important to me. It's something I get to do where I can have some sort of escape from reality."

Taylor added, "I think the show will help me after graduation by giving me a better understanding of time management, my personal determination for a project, the process of planning and getting ready for a big show, and it will also help me decide

what kind of projects I want to do in the future.

Hope Hardy will be using clay, graphite drawings and papier-mâché for her portfolio.

"This collection is about how I process my identity and how I get trapped in an endless cycle of growth and decay," said Hardy.

"I view sharing my portfolio with others as a promise to myself. To keep

semester the show will be held in the Art Center of Greenwood.

"We partner with the center uptown, and we take over their whole space," said McAbee. "And we're having it on the same night as the uptown art walk, so there'll be lots of things happening around the area."

The Arts Center is located at 120 Main St. Greenwood, SC.

The show will open on April 7th

and will close April 18th. The reception will be held Thursday, April 10th alongside the ArtWalk from 5pm to 8pm.

Both the Lander University and Greenwood communities are invited to support the students.

"It's a really good opportunity to come out and support the young artists," said McAbee.



me accountable and address the issues I've been going in circles about to finally break out of the cycle, to finally come over the hill, and to stare the issue in the eye and not look away," she said.

The show is held towards the end of each semester to accommodate different graduation times and has been held in several locations in the past.

Last semester a show for the "Triads" exhibition was held in the Lander University Art Gallery. However, this

This will be their first almost professional show.

McAbee added, "Having people come out and see the students' work and interact and talk with the artists is a great opportunity to give them experience, to answer questions, and to get feedback from the public."

The Lander students participating in this semester's show are; Lauren DaRe, Alyssa Glazer, Hope Hardy, Mary Grace Morrow, Tori Taylor, Dae Dae Valle, Elaina Woodard.

Lander Crowns '25 Homecoming King, Queen



By Holly Tuggle

Lander University celebrated its 2025 Homecoming with the coronation of Jonathan Walker and Sophia Reyes as Lander Homecoming King and Queen during the halftime of the men's basketball game on Saturday, February 15.

Jonathan Walker, a senior business administration major with an emphasis in IT management from Laurens, represented Gamma Phi Beta sorority and the Presidential Ambassadors. Sophia Reyes, a sophomore double majoring in criminology and political science with a minor in homeland security from Greenwood, represented the Presidential Ambassadors.

Sophia Reyes expressed her excitement and gratitude for being chosen as this year's Homecoming royalty. "My biggest takeaway from this experience is that staying true to yourself is the most important thing in life. By always being your most authentic and confident self, you attract the beautiful things in life and can cherish them even more. This is for anyone who may shy away from stepping out of their comfort zone: Life is about learning to embrace the uncomfortable—and having fun while doing it!"

The Homecoming festivities, themed "Party Like It's 1925!" in honor of Chipley Hall's 100th anniversary, spanned a week of competitions and social events for students and alumni. Activities included a banner reveal, field day, the annual Polar Plunge, and a tailgate party.

The week culminated at the Homecoming basketball games, where the Lander Bearcats faced off against Georgia College & State University. The crowning of the Homecoming King and Queen took place during halftime, marking a highlight of the weekend's events.

In addition to student activities, alumni were welcomed back to campus with events such as the Alumni Awards Luncheon, a golf outing, and a Roaring '20s themed party at a local brewery. The celebrations provided an opportunity for the Lander community to come together and honor both its history and current student achievements.

The 2025 Homecoming not only celebrated the university's rich traditions but also highlighted the accomplishments and leadership of students like Walker and Reyes, who continue to contribute positively to the Lander community.

Reyes explained, "After winning homecoming, I felt an immense amount of gratitude and thankfulness for the students and faculty that helped me through this process. The crown being placed on my head also gave me a feeling of honor to be in this position, one that I won't take for granted and will cherish every day!"

Lander Employee of the Month February



Kylie Langley, Admissions

Congratulations to Kylie Langley for being awarded as the most recent staff Employee of the Month.

Kylie was nominated for exemplifying Lander's Core Values by "demonstrating exceptional initiative...by taking charge of promotional items and taking another counselor under her wing... additionally she has proactively stepped in multiple times to cover the Counselor of the Day role, showcasing her reliability and commitment to the Admissions team."

The First Day
of Spring is
March 20th.

Casey Cline, Lander's Director of Workforce Development

By Tamara Holmes

Lander University is excited to welcome Casey L. Cline as the new director of the Workforce and Career Development program. When Cline first came to Lander, she said she was amazed by how



friendly and respectful the students were. "I have seen so many students hold the door for you, smile, make eye contact little things that make a big difference. That is not something you see everywhere," she shared. "The staff and faculty have also been really welcoming, which is great. I'm excited about what's to come."

Cline knew the job would be a challenge, especially since the department has not been fully staffed for a while. She said, "There is a lot of work to be done, and at times it can feel overwhelming. But I remind myself it is a process, and we will get there," she said.

When asked if she always knew she wanted to be in this role, Cline admitted, "Absolutely not. I started my undergrad at 17, and I had no idea what I wanted to do. Then I saw art therapy, and thought, that should be me. I went for it, thinking I would be an art therapist for the rest of my life." Even though she is no longer a full-time therapist, Cline has kept art therapy close to her heart. She runs a small private practice and still includes creativity in her work. "At Midlands Tech, I worked with students with disabili-

ties and even got a grant for creative arts workshops for students, families, and staff," she explained. "I have always found a way to blend creativity with career services."

Cline's background in counseling and career development helps her connect with students in meaningful ways. "I have always been passionate about helping students build their confidence and explore their options," she said. "A lot of it comes down to guiding them, especially when they are uncertain about their future."

Over the years, Cline has made a meaningful impact on many students. "I am lucky that the students I have worked with continue to keep in touch," she said. "They will message me on LinkedIn or send emails saying, 'Thank you, Miss Casey,' and let me know what they are up to. I have collected notes and emails from students, and whenever I am having a rough day, I read through them to remind myself of why I do this work."

Cline's dedication to student success is clear. "I really believe we can make a strong impact on students' futures here," she said. "It is a challenging job, but helping students grow, develop, and ultimately succeed makes it all worthwhile."

With her creativity, counseling, and passion for career development, Cline is eager to help make the future of Lander's Workforce and Career Development a more stable program. The students at Lander are sure to benefit from her leadership as she guides them toward successful careers.

CHIPLEY CELEBRATION

Long-time Board Member Shares Fond Memories

By Lindsey Hodges

Even at 100 years old, Lander University's Chipley Hall is still providing a place for Lander women to make new memories.

The Lander community gathered on Chipley's lawn recently to celebrate 100 years since the state-ly residence hall was built. The celebration was part of Lander's 2025 Homecoming festivities, and included a birthday cake for the building.



Longtime Board of Trustees member Anne Walker – who has served on the board since its

constitution in 1988 and has previously served as chairperson of the board - has given decades of service to Lander since graduating in 1972.

Walker first came to Lander College in 1968, when she moved into Chipley Hall on the third floor.

Walker said she remembers certain details about her time at Chipley – from having to check in and out, the house mother that stayed there, and the one telephone at the end of each hall.

But more than those details, she cherishes the memories she made during her two years as a Chipley resident.

"It's been a main stay on the campus all these years, and Lord have mercy, so many years of so many incredible memories that people have," Walker said.

"It's so important for us to remind ourselves and others of how important history is and, in this case, the history of Chipley." Walker said she remembers study groups in Chipley Hall, including one for a history exam in which students came up with humorous ways to remember certain facts. Then during the exam, "It was all we could do to not burst out laughing because we were remembering this stuff."

Walker recalls that the room she and her roommate, Emily Bearden Gooding, shared was at the front of the building, and they saw plenty of visitors between classes because it offered a great vantage point for checking out the guys on campus.

The women of the third floor had a "Chipley Third Floor Theme Song," which was passed down to incoming freshmen, and Walker still remembers the humorous lyrics to that song 57 years later.

Continued on page 13



Daniel M. Harrison



Walter Iriarte



Misty Jameson



Gui Agustini

15th Annual

Lander Film Festival

The following is the agenda for the 2025 Lander Film Festival and Short Film Competition.

FILM FESTIVAL WEEK

***March 18: 6:30 pm to 8 pm in Barrett Hall (BH126)**

Daniel M. Harrison, Lander University Professor of Sociology, will present and discuss the classic film noir, *The Big Sleep* (1946)

This session will feature a showing and discussion of the film-noir classic, *The Big Sleep* (1946, directed by Howard Hawks, and starring Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall). Dr. Daniel Harrison, Lander University Professor of Sociology, and founder of the Greenwood Film Society, will host and moderate the event.

***March 19: 4-5:30 BH 126**

Dr. Walter Iriarte, Media and Communication professor, will present on “Drones and Film”

“Dr. Iriarte will present on drone cinematography. Specifically, his presentation will demonstrate how camera technology began as an artistic/creative endeavor in contrast to drone tech harnessing political, tactical, and algorithmic calculations. Dr. Iriarte’s continued work in using drone films continues to challenge and, possibly, reverse the usage of drone cinematography as a way of bringing the innovation of cameras back to its creative roots.”

***March 20: 5:30-6:30 BH 126**

Dr. Misty Jameson, English Professor, will present: “Monster Culture, Drive-Ins, and Roger Corman.”

Dr. Misty Jameson’s presentation, “Monster Culture, Drive-Ins, and Roger Corman,” will discuss the rise of monster culture and drive-in theaters in America and explain how these two cultural phenomena intersected with the early career of filmmaker and producer Roger Corman (1926-2024).

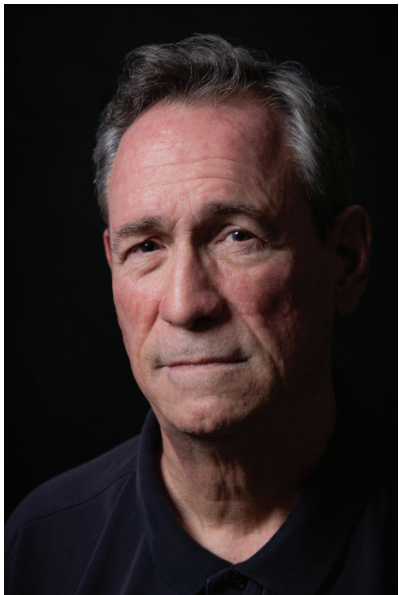
Through examining Corman’s films such as *It Conquered the World* (1956) and *Attack of the Crab Monsters* (1957), along with later selections such as *The Wasp Woman* (1959) and *X: The Man with the X-ray Eyes* (1963), her presentation will look at how Corman’s films participated in the new monster culture of the time, helped shape the drive-in aesthetic, and also helped set the standard for independent science fiction and horror to come.

Short film Competition

***March 20 6:30-7:30 BH 126**

Gui Agustini will present on Voice Over acting for XMEN ’97

Agustini, an actor, director and producer who attended Lander University, will present his experiences and knowledge on filmmaking, acting and voice-over acting. He will primarily focus his discussion on his recent role as “Sunspot” in XMEN’97. “Gui’s performance adds a dynamic layer to the timeless saga, promising audiences an unforgettable journey into the heart of heroism and resilience.” (pop-culturist.com)

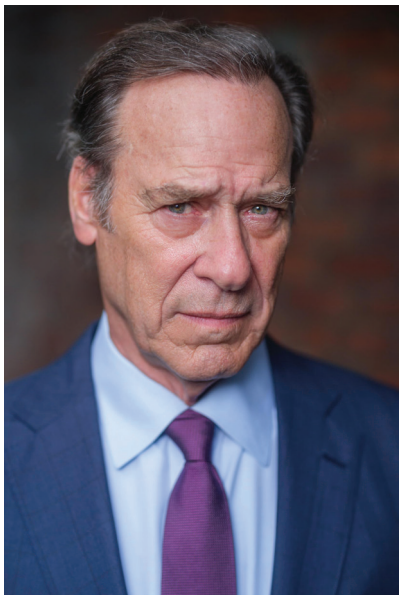


Shelley Reid

***March 21: 5 – 6:30 pm CC 250**

Shelley Reid and Grainger Hines on their feature film: “Long Shadows.”

Shelley Reid will give a presentation on the craft of screenwriting and his journey from script to screen with the feature film, “Long Shadows,” which is scheduled for a theatrical release this Summer. Greenwood native, Grainger Hines, who starred as “Sheriff Wesley Tibbs” in Long Shadows, will also be on hand to answer questions about the movie and screen acting in general.



Grainger Hines

***March 22: 4:30 – 6 pm Lander Cultural Center Auditorium**

Short Film Screening and Awards

As part of the 15th Annual Lander Film Festival, Lander University is pleased to present the Short Film Competition. This popular event provides high school, college and open division filmmakers an opportunity to push their storytelling boundaries while showcasing their love of cinematography.

The program is supported by South Carolina Humanities, a not-for-profit organization; inspiring, engaging and enriching South Carolinians with programs on literature, history, culture, and heritage. SC Humanities receives funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Democracy demands wisdom.



Robert Stevenson

The Lander University Film Festival is an annual event that celebrates film and encourages all aspects of filmmaking.

Any questions about the Lander Film Festival should be directed to the Festival Director Dr. Robert Stevenson



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Teacher Clothes Closet: Dress for Success

By Maxence Barriere

Lander education students had the chance to refresh their wardrobes for free at the Teacher Clothes Closet event on February 5. Sponsored by the Palmetto State Teachers Association (PSTA), the event was held in the Carnell Learning Center and offered future teachers professional clothing for interviews or practicums.

Teacher Clothes Closet was brought about to collect donations from professionals such as attorneys, state officials, and community members to provide students with free, high-quality clothes. Once their trailer is ready to go, the PSTA visits almost every college in the state each year.

Molly Sharpe, director of marketing at PSTA, stated that the event is put together to help students who may not have the means to purchase professional attire. “Most students don’t make money, and cost is an issue when it comes to buying professional clothes,” she said. According to Sharpe, this event is a great opportunity because they can take as much as they need for free.

First-year teachers and education majors were invited to look around and pick out outfits with the help of the PSTA staff. “If someone is in doubt, I help them choose what would look professional for an interview or in the classroom,” Sharpe said. Craig King, director of Teacher Leadership at PSTA, also assists male students in finding the right clothing sizes.

Sharpe stated that dressing professionally makes quite a difference when applying for jobs. “It puts students ahead of other candidates who may not dress the part,” she said.

The event often receives positive feedback from stu-



dents, with some alumni even joining PSTA after graduation as a way to give back. “They remembered what the association did for them and appreciated the help,” Sharpe said.

The Teacher Clothes Closet is a valuable resource for education students, helping them step into their teaching careers with confidence and style.

Lander Greek Week Revamped

By Olivia Abela

Beginning on Monday, March 24, Greek Week at Lander University will be bigger and better than ever. Taking place in March, it will celebrate Greek life on campus and honor its rich history.

Ariel Wingard, Lander’s Coordinator of Campus Engagement and Fraternity and Sorority Life Advisor, is leading the charge in reshaping Greek Week.

“Greek Week is the time to celebrate everything that makes Greek life at Lander special,” said Wingard.

“It’s all about building a community, celebrating our traditions, and having an unforgettable time.”



Wingard, the Greek Week committee and intern Darby White, has worked tirelessly to incorporate new, engaging events. “We’re shaking things up with a Greek mythology theme and fresh competitions to make this week even more legendary,” she added.

This year’s events include a media day, showcase, Greek-style Family Feud, and a medalion hunt. “We’ll also complete a service project in honor of a Greek life member who recently passed,” said White.

The festivities end Friday with a Greek Gala and conclude Saturday with a tailgate at the Jeff May Complex.

Intramural Opportunities

By Brianna Kaiser

Whether you're a former varsity athlete or have little to no experience with an organized sport at all, joining an intramural league could be the perfect decision for you. College is a major transition in life and playing on a team with others who share the same struggles could be very beneficial.

Lander University's Campus Recreational Coordinator, Andrew, AJ, Wiles, stated, "At Lander we run a variety of sessions alongside sports, including weight training, 30-minute abs, Cross-Fit, Spin, Pilates, and team sport sessions."



To become involved with Lander's intramurals: visit the Lander intramurals website at www.lander.edu/athletics/intramurals;

You can start as a free agent which will allow you to be picked up by existing teams;

If you prefer to become a team captain, you can also start your own team through

the LU Rec app on your phone.

Lander University's intramural teams play Monday through Thursday from 7-10 pm.

Occasionally, intramural games start a little earlier or last a little longer. Be sure to check your Lander email regularly to stay updated. On each roster, there is a spot for each team to put the days and times they cannot play. Students can also choose to have Lander send you notifications alerting you about wins/losses and game time reminders.

"I love what students bring to Intramurals... it's competitive, there are a lot of smiles, laughs, teamwork, and overall, the comradery of trying to win that T-shirt," Wiles added.

Joining intramurals can enrich your life in many ways. Not only do they promote physical health and fitness, but they are also a platform for social interaction and community building. By participating, you may develop teamwork skills, relieve stress, and create lasting memories with new friendships.

Developing Community

By Danni Moon

"An engaged community is one that can support others and itself, so I encourage our students to get involved with housing programs here on campus, read your emails, and talk with your RAs (Resident Assistant)," stated Joey Plyler Housing and Residence Life Associate Director at Lander University,

During his eight years working in the housing department, Plyler mentioned witnessing a growth. "My predecessor, Megan McCartney, implemented changes to improve RA autonomy and give them a sense of ownership in their role."

Since 2017, Plyler has moved up the professional ladder from being a student worker (RA), an area coordinator, assistant director, and now associate director of the department.

"I continued that development while making sure our RAs understand the importance of what they do, so that our office staff and student workers share the same passion with our students. Being able to find meaning in your work is meaningful."

Creating community is the most important value of the department, and this is established in the Community Living Guide: "Our mission is to establish dynamic, collaborative, and inclusive communities that promote student engagement, self-growth, and academic success."

When looking into the future, Plyler stated, "I hope that we can maintain the current level of passion within our staff."

Plyler said he wants the student experience to continue improving and making sure that Housing and ResLife is part of that improvement.

Plyler concluded, "We want you to have the best student experience that you can have. Come ask us questions; we want to help you the best we can!"



Chipleigh Hall Celebrates Century Milestone

Continued from page 7

Walker said she never got in any real trouble and never did anything “wild and crazy,” but she did break all the rules in the rule book her freshman year – all at one time.

“My freshman year, they said you couldn’t borrow anybody’s car; you couldn’t go out with your hair in curlers; you couldn’t go out in pants; you couldn’t go out the end door after a certain time; and obviously you couldn’t drink,” she remembered. “So one night, I did all of it. I had my hair in curlers, I had on pants, I borrowed

somebody’s car, I went to the local convenience store and bought a 98-cent bottle of wine, and I still have that bottle, believe it or not.”



lege students,” Walker said. “We just had a good time. Behaved most of the time.”

At that time, Lander students received demerits for breaking rules, and Walker and her roommate hadn’t received any demerits as they were nearing the end of their freshman year. They didn’t want to end the year with zero, so following a dance, they waited out in Chipleigh’s circle with their dates past the time they were meant to check in. “We were like any other col-

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL:

Three Players Lead Lander Basketball to Homecoming Win

By Kiersten Thatcher

In front of an electrified homecoming crowd, the Lander women’s basketball team delivered a dominant performance, securing a crucial victory with the help of

three standout players. Courtney Nesbitt, Shcira Fowles, and Jazz Frierson played pivotal roles in the Bearcat’s success, each contributing in key moments to push Lander past Georgia



Courtney Nesbitt

College with a 48-68 win.

From the opening tip-off, Lander set the tone with aggressive defense and crisp ball movement. The energy in the arena was electric, with a larger-than-usual home crowd fueling the team’s intensity. Nesbitt, one of the team’s key contributors, acknowledged the heightened atmosphere and how it influenced their play.

“This game, I felt like we worked together as a team and played hard for each other,” Nesbitt said. “It did feel like a different atmosphere, more people in the crowd and just a little bit louder.”

Nesbitt’s ability to stay composed under pressure and make the right plays

at critical moments was instrumental in securing the win. She emphasized the importance of communication and execution on the court.

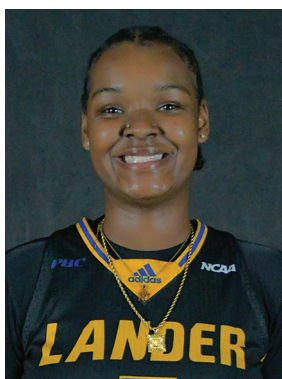
“I was just playing my part,” she began “Communication with my teammates and making the right plays at the right time.”

Fowles made her presence felt early, setting the tone with her physicality and dominance on the boards. She entered the game with a determined mindset, aiming to be a difference-maker from the start.

“My mindset going into that game was just being better and approaching the game better than last game,” Fowles said. “I was about setting the tone early and having my presence being felt on the glass.”

Her efforts paid off, as she controlled the paint and provided second-chance opportunities that kept Lander’s offense flowing. The win also served as a personal confidence boost and a spark for the team moving forward.

“I was able to get my groove back and be that force my team needed me to be that night,” she said. “When we



Shcira Fowles

continue to build on this momentum, stay disciplined, and push each other every day, we’ll elevate not only our individual performances but also our chemistry as a unit.”

Frierson, another crucial contributor, approached the game with a winning mentality. She knew the importance of securing victory, not just for the home-

coming crowd but also for the team’s overall standing.

“Going into the game, I had a mindset of wanting to win, to better our record, and end the week off with a win,” Frierson said.



Jazz Frierson

The game’s momentum took a definitive shift in Lander’s favor during a key stretch where the Bearcats found their rhythm offensively.

“When we started hitting shots and we went for a big run, I felt the momentum shift in our favor,” Frierson said. “We did not let up and kept putting points on the board.”

That relentless effort sealed the 48-68 win for Lander, sending the home crowd into celebration. With the victory, the Bearcats not only defended their home court but also gained valuable confidence heading into the next stretch of the season.

Building something special with Lander women's basketball

By Landon King

When former Lander women's basketball head coach Stephanie Gelhausen left for Marshall following the 2023-24 season, the program was at a stalemate. There was a roster full of talented players, but no one to coach them. But then, one

name stuck out: Nicole "Colie" Shelwick.

"I was honored and grateful to be selected as the head coach of a program with so much history and tradition," said Shelwick.

Shelwick was hired following the departure

of Gelhausen and is only the second African American head women's basketball coach in Lander history, something that she holds close to her heart.

"It just feels so special to be able to be in such an exclusive group," said Shelwick. "I am so grateful for all of the support I have received from everybody in my time here so far."

Shelwick came to Lander with over 10 years of coaching experience, most recently as the associate head coach at Division I Detroit Mercy. In her final season in Detroit, Shelwick helped guide the Titans to a 17-win season, their highest total since 2017.

It's not just a coincidence

total since 1988-89 and a 25th-ranked scoring defense in the country. Shelwick also led Indiana University Kokomo to a River States Conference West Division title in 2018-19 as the head coach.

Now, in 2025, Shelwick is guiding the Bearcats

fully reflect the strides made, the team's cohesion and confidence continue to grow with each game.

"We've just got to continue to prepare, believe, and put ourselves in positions to succeed," said Shelwick. "We've got to find our confidence and meet our goals."

As the 2024-25 season winds down, Shelwick has almost completed her first season in Greenwood. Though the road has been bumpy, she took the opportunity to reflect on her first season as a Bearcat and assured Lander fans that the best is yet to come.

"I love each

of those girls as if they were my own and it will be the same way for any player that comes in the future. We're a family, and I'm so proud of my girls and to be able call myself their coach," said Shelwick on the relationships she has formed at Lander. "When we hit our stride, it's going to be scary. We're building something special here."

that Shelwick was on the coaching staff for Detroit Mercy's historic season.

Wherever she goes, winning follows, and she has proven that multiple times in the past.

Prior to her time in Motor City, Shelwick spent a season as the defensive coordinator at Loyola-Chicago, where she helped guide the team to their highest win

through a season full of ups and downs. After a hot 8-2 start, the Bearcats faced adversity with two separate three-game losing streaks. However, Shelwick's leadership has remained steadfast.

The team has shown significant progress, improving their defensive tenacity and executing a fast-paced offensive strategy. While Lander's 11-11 overall record may not



Will **YOU** earn
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Contact EYE Program Director for more
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ADDENDUM

The byline for the article, "DiMatteo Transitions from Practicing Law to Higher Education" in the February Forum was misspelled. The byline should have been LeiSean Frazier.

We apologize for the error.

Lander Calendar of Events March

<p>Mar. 1 Women's Tennis; 11 AM - 2 PM; Bearcats vs. Francis Marion</p> <p>Men's Tennis; 2 - 5 PM Bearcats vs. Francis Marion</p> <p>Baseball; 2 - 5 PM. Bearcats @ Flagler</p> <p>Women's Lacrosse; 3 - 6 PM Bearcats @ Belmont Abbey</p> <p>Softball; 3 - 6 PM Bearcats vs. USC Beaufort</p> <p>Men's Basketball; 3:30 - 6:30 PM Bearcats @ USC Aiken</p> <p>Women's Basketball; 5:30 - 7:30 PM Bearcats @ USC Aiken</p> <p>Mar 2: Baseball; 1 - 4 PM Bearcats @ Flagler</p> <p>Softball; 1 - 6 PM. Bearcats vs. USC Beaufort</p> <p>Spring Break March 3-7</p> <p>Mar 3: Men's Golf; All Day Lander Bearcat Classic</p> <p>Mar 4: Men's Golf; All Day Lander Bearcat Classic</p> <p>Men's Tennis: 1 - 4 PM; Bearcats @ Valdosta State</p> <p>Softball: 2 - 7 PM; Bearcats vs. North Greenville</p> <p>Baseball: 4 - 7 PM; Bearcats vs. Wingate</p> <p>Men's Lacrosse: 7 - 10 PM; Bearcats @ Walsh</p> <p>Mar 7: Men's Lacrosse; 1 - 4 PM. Bearcats @ Virginia State</p> <p>Baseball; 6 - 9 PM. Bearcats @ Augusta</p> <p>Mar 8: Women's Lacrosse 11 AM - 2 PM; Bearcats vs. Florida Southern</p> <p>Softball: 2 - 7 PM; Bearcats @ North Georgia</p>	<p>Baseball: 3 - 6 PM; Bearcats @ Augusta</p> <p>Mar 9: Softball; 12 - 3 PM. Bearcats @ North Georgia</p> <p>Baseball: 2 - 5 PM; Bearcats @ Augusta</p> <p>Mar 10: Women's Golf; Dr. Jerry Surratt Women's Invitational</p> <p>Group X 15-Minute Abs 11 AM - 12 PM</p> <p>Group X Team Sports 4 - 5 PM</p> <p>Group X Cross Fit 4 - 5 PM</p> <p>Group X Spin 5 - 6 PM</p> <p>Group X Weight Training 6 - 7:30 PM</p> <p>Group X Pilates 6:30 - 7:30 PM</p> <p>Group X Yoga 7 - 8 PM</p> <p>Mar 11: Women's Golf; Dr. Jerry Surratt Women's Invitational</p> <p>Transfer Tuesday: 9 AM - 5 PM</p> <p>Men's Tennis: 2:30 - 5:30 PM Bearcats @ USC Sumter</p> <p>Group X Team Sports 4 - 5 PM</p> <p>Group X Cross Fit 4 - 5 PM</p> <p>Group X Spin: 5 - 6 PM</p> <p>Baseball: 5 - 8 PM Bearcats @ Belmont Abbey</p> <p>Community Lecture Series 5:30 - 8 PM; Presenter: Sean Barnette Reception: 5:30 p.m. Presentation: 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Mar 12: Bearcat for a Day 9 AM - 2 PM</p> <p>Group X 15-Minute Abs</p>	<p>11 AM - 12 PM</p> <p>Softball: 2 - 7 PM Bearcats @ Catawba</p> <p>Women's Tennis: 2:30 - 5:30 PM Bearcats vs. North Greenville</p> <p>Men's Tennis: 2:30 - 5:30 PM Bearcats vs. North Greenville</p> <p>Group X Team Sports 4 - 5 PM</p> <p>Group X Cross Fit 4 - 5 PM</p> <p>Group X Spin 5 - 6 PM</p> <p>Group X Weight Training 6 - 7:30 PM</p> <p>Group X Pilates 6:30 - 7:30 PM</p> <p>Group X Yoga 7 - 8 PM</p> <p>Mar 13 Group X Team Sports 4 - 5 PM</p> <p>Group X Cross Fit 4 - 5 PM</p> <p>Group X Spin 5 - 6 PM</p> <p>Group X Weight Training 6 - 7:30 PM</p> <p>Acrobatics & Tumbling 6 - 9 PM; Bearcats vs. Newberry</p> <p>Mar 14: Stop the Bleed 4 - 8 PM</p> <p>Baseball: 6 - 9 PM Bearcats vs. Columbus State</p> <p>Mar 15: Women's Lacrosse 11 AM - 2 PM Bearcats vs. Slippery Rock</p> <p>Men's Lacrosse: 2 - 5 PM; Bearcats vs. Anderson</p> <p>Women's Tennis 2 PM - 5 AM Bearcats vs. Converse</p> <p>Baseball: 2 - 5 PM</p>	<p>Bearcats vs. Columbus State</p> <p>Mar 16: Baseball; 1 - 4 PM. Bearcats vs. Columbus State</p> <p>Mar 17: Men's Golf Bobcat Invitational</p> <p>Group X 15-Minute Abs 11 AM - 12 PM</p> <p>Group X Team Sports 4 - 5 PM</p> <p>Group X Cross Fit 4 - 5 PM</p> <p>Group X Spin 5 - 6 PM</p> <p>Group X Weight Training 6 - 7:30 PM</p> <p>Group X Pilates 6:30 - 7:30 PM</p> <p>Intramural - 4v4 Women's Flag Football 7 - 10 PM</p> <p>Group X Yoga 7 - 8 PM</p> <p>Mar 18-22: Lander University Film Festival See schedule page:</p> <p>Men's Golf: Bobcat Invitational</p> <p>Women's Lacrosse: 1 - 4 PM Bearcats vs. Florida Tech</p> <p>Women's Tennis: 3 - 6 PM Bearcats vs. Belmont Abbey</p> <p>Group X Team Sports; 4 - 5 PM</p> <p>Group X Cross Fit; 4 - 5 PM</p> <p>Group X Spin; 5 - 6 PM</p> <p>Baseball; 6 - 9 PM; Bearcats @ Francis Marion</p> <p>Lander Film Festival - Film Noir Discussion 6:30 - 8 PM BH 126</p> <p>Intramural - 6v6 Volleyball 7 - 10 PM</p> <p><i>Continued on page 16</i></p>
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Lander Calendar of Events March

<p><i>Continued from page 15</i></p> <p>Collage Concert; 7 - 9 PM</p> <p>Mar 19; Group X 15-Minute Abs 11 AM - 12 PM</p> <p>Group X Team Sports; 4 - 5 PM</p> <p>Group X Cross Fit; 4 - 5 PM</p> <p>Lander Film Festival - Drones and Film 4 - 5:30 PM BH 126.</p> <p>Group X Spin; 5 - 6 PM</p> <p>In My Bag; 6 - 8 PM</p> <p>Group X Weight Training 6 - 7:30 PM</p> <p>Group X Pilates: 6:30 - 7:30 PM</p> <p>New Members Presentation 7 - 10 PM</p> <p>Intramural - 7v7 Men's Flag Football; 7 - 10 PM</p> <p>Group X Yoga: 7 - 8 PM</p> <p>Mar 20: Men's Tennis 2:30 - 5:30 PM; Bearcats @ Au- gusta</p> <p>Group X Team Sports 4 - 5 PM</p> <p>Group X Cross Fit 4 - 5 PM</p> <p>Group X Spin 5 - 6 PM</p> <p>Lander Film Festival - Monster Cul- ture, Drive-Ins, and Roger Corman 5:30 - 6:30 PM BH 126</p> <p>Group X Weight Training 6 - 7:30 PM</p> <p>Lander Film Festival - Xmen'97 Gui Agustini 6:30 - 7:30 PM BH 126</p> <p>Faculty Recital: Richard Thomas, Cello; 7 - 8 PM</p> <p>Mar 21: Lander Film Festival - Screenwriting 5 - 6:30 PM Shelley Reid and Grainger Hines CC250</p> <p>Baseball: 6 - 9 PM Bearcats @ North Georgia</p>	<p>Softball: 6 - 9 PM Bearcats @ Georgia College</p> <p>Acrobatics & Tumbling: 6 - 9 PM Bearcats @ Coker</p> <p>Mar 22: Open House 9 AM - 5 PM</p> <p>Men's Lacrosse: 12 - 3 PM Bearcats vs. North Greenville</p> <p>Softball: 1 - 6 PM Bearcats @ Georgia College</p> <p>Baseball: 2 - 5 PM Bearcats @ North Georgia</p> <p>Women's Lacrosse: 3 - 6 PM Bearcats vs. Lee</p> <p>Mar 23: Baseball; 1 - 4 PM Bearcats @ North Georgia</p> <p>Mar 24: Women's Golf Lady Bearcat Invitational</p> <p>Fall Registration for Continuing Stu- dents Begins</p> <p>Greek Week: Opening Day Tabling 10 AM - 2 PM</p> <p>Group X 15-Minute Abs 11 AM - 12 PM</p> <p>Group X Team Sports 4 - 5 PM</p> <p>Group X Cross Fit 4 - 5 PM</p> <p>Group X Spin 5 - 6 PM</p> <p>Group X Weight Training 6 - 7:30 PM</p> <p>Group X Pilates 6:30 - 7:30 PM</p> <p>Greek Week: Family Feud 7 - 9 PM</p> <p>Intramural - 4v4 Women's Flag Foot- ball 7 - 10 PM</p> <p>Group X Yoga 7 - 8 PM</p> <p>Mar 25: Women's Golf; Lady Bearcat Invitational</p>	<p>MAT Exhibit; March 25-April 9</p> <p>Baseball: 2 - 5 PM Bearcats @ Mars Hill</p> <p>Women's Tennis: 3 - 6 PM Bearcats @ Georgia College</p> <p>Softball: 3 - 8 PM Bearcats @ Francis Marion</p> <p>Group X Team Sports 4 - 5 PM</p> <p>Group X Cross Fit 4 - 5 PM</p> <p>Greek Week: Pomp Reveal 5 - 6 PM</p> <p>Group X Spin 5 - 6 PM</p> <p>Meet the Candidates 7 - 9 PM</p> <p>Intramural - 6v6 Volleyball 7 - 10 PM</p> <p>Mar 26 Group X 15-Minute Abs 11 AM - 12 PM</p> <p>Group X Team Sports 4 - 5 PM</p> <p>Group X Cross Fit 4 - 5 PM</p> <p>Group X Spin 5 - 6 PM</p> <p>Group X Weight Training 6 - 7:30 PM</p> <p>Group X Pilates 6:30 - 7:30 PM</p> <p>Intramural - 7v7 Men's Flag Foot- ball 7 - 10 PM</p> <p>Group X Yoga: 7 - 8 PM</p> <p>Mar 27: Group X Team Sports 4 - 5 PM</p> <p>Group X Cross Fit 4 - 5 PM</p> <p>Group X Spin 5 - 6 PM</p> <p>Group X Weight Training</p>	<p>6 - 7:30 PM</p> <p>Acrobatics & Tumbling 6 - 9 PM; Tri-Meet</p> <p>Greek Week: Lip Sync Battle 8 - 10 PM</p> <p>Mar 28: Women's Tennis 2 - 5 PM; Bearcats vs. Flagler</p> <p>Men's Tennis: 2:30 - 5:30 PM Bearcats @ Georgia College</p> <p>Baseball: 5 - 8 PM Bearcats @ USC Aiken</p> <p>Mar 29: Women's Lacrosse 12 - 3 PM; Bearcats vs. Flagler</p> <p>Men's Lacrosse: 1 - 4 PM Bearcats @ Wingate</p> <p>Softball: 1 - 6 PM Bearcats vs. USC Aiken</p> <p>Baseball: 2 - 5 PM Bearcats @ USC Aiken</p> <p>Mar 30: Softball; 12 - 3 PM Bearcats vs. USC Aiken</p> <p>Men's Tennis: 1 - 4 PM Bearcats vs. Flagler</p> <p>Baseball: 1 - 4 PM Bearcats @ USC Aiken</p> <p>Mar 31: Women's Golf Lynn University Invitational</p> <p>Group X 15-Minute Abs 11 AM - 12 PM</p> <p>Group X Team Sports 4 - 5 PM</p> <p>Group X Cross Fit 4 - 5 PM</p> <p>Mar 31: Group X Spin 5 - 6 PM</p> <p>Group X Weight Training 6 - 7:30 PM</p> <p>Group X Pilates 6:30 - 7:30 PM</p> <p>Intramural - 4v4 Women's Flag Football 7 - 10 PM</p> <p>Group X Yoga 7 - 8 PM</p>
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