



HOMECOMING 2026

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Graham Duncan - Lecturer & Director of Communication

By Siera Bouffard

For Graham Duncan, lecturer of English and director of communications at Lander University, the words “I’m always teaching” are a reflection of his responsibilities with his dual roles on campus. Duncan said he believes both of his roles share a similar goal: helping others communicate effectively, whether he is leading a class discussion or creating messaging for prospective students.

A 2017 graduate of Lander University, Duncan did not originally plan to return after earning his degree. As a student, he worked in the Office of Governmental Relations, assisting with research projects and presentations for various government bodies. After graduation, he spent a year at a public relations firm in Columbia before being invited back to campus to join Lander’s communications office.

After returning to Lander, Duncan chose to work on a master’s degree in English by signing up for evening classes. This allowed him to start teaching part time.

Nearly two years ago, Lander’s communications office rebranded as the Office of University Marketing and Communications. Around that time, Duncan was encouraged to apply for the director of communications position, which included an appointment as lecturer of English.

For Duncan, the connection between the two roles felt natural.

“In the classroom, I get to help

students sharpen their communication skills through reading, writing and speaking,” he said. “Outside the classroom, I get to help my co-workers do the same, while communicating on behalf of an organization.”

This semester, Duncan is teaching COM 275, which is a course that focuses on professional communication. He believes that one of Lander’s greatest strengths is helping students with practical preparation for life after graduation. This is reinforced by his teaching



Graham Duncan

of the fundamentals of communication several days a week and using them in his work.

Most days, Duncan starts early, getting to campus around 6:45 a.m. He often uses the quiet time before teaching to plan lessons or grade. After class, he focuses on the communications team. There, he works on media stories,

advertising copy, emails to prospective students and promotional materials for Lander’s more than 100 academic programs.

His approach to both positions is influenced by areas where teaching and communications overlap. Working directly with students, he said, helps him better understand the audience the university hopes to reach.

“I get to ask students about their college experience on a daily basis,” Duncan said. “They give me story ideas all the time.”

That perspective supports the idea of audience awareness, which he frequently stresses in his classes.

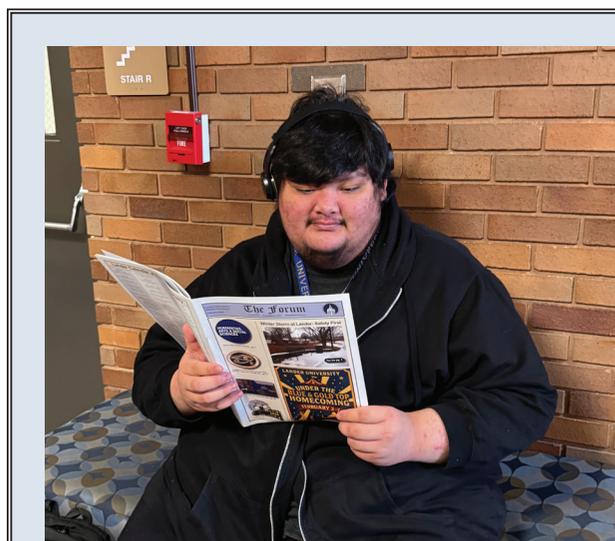
“If you learn nothing else from me,” he said, “know your audience.”

Lander is home to more than 4,500 students, so Duncan is aware of the impact his office’s work has. According to him, every student who decided to enroll at Lander engaged with content created by the Office of University Marketing and Communications in some capacity.

For Duncan, effective communication is about clarity and understanding.

“To me, communication is effective when the message is delivered and interpreted as intended, and the feedback is positive,” he said.

Duncan says the most rewarding part of his work is assisting the future generation in preparation for their futures. Every class he teaches and every message he develops is part of that mission.



Checking out The Forum

Members of the Forum student newspaper staff sought to blanket the campus while circulating the new February edition of the Lander University Forum student newspaper.

When exiting the stairs on the second floor of the Carnell Learning Center, one Forum staffer went straight into the Education lobby, and another student staff member turned left to place the new Forums in the Business lobby.

When the Forum staffers met back again in the middle by the elevator, they saw Freshman Business Administration Marketing Management Major Skyler Santo already enjoying the newspaper - hot off the press.

Shout out to Skyler! Students like you are the reason why the Forum staff works so hard each month.

Lander Honors VP with Highest Alumni Award

By Caroline Myrick

Lander University Vice President for Strategic Initiatives J. Adam Taylor, Sr. was recently honored during a sold-out Alumni Awards Luncheon with the Grace Iler Norman Award, the university's highest achievement for alumni.

The ceremony reached its maximum capacity of 45 attendees in the New Hall multipurpose room to celebrate graduates for their professional integrity and community commitment.

"This year's event felt particularly special because of the energy and engagement in the room," said Brittany Tims, director of alumni affairs. "Seeing alumni reconnect between

generations and share their stories made the celebration more meaningful."

Taylor, a 1987 business administration graduate,

as a student, Taylor was a member of the ROTC program and later attained the rank of captain during his service with the South

Representatives. He is a recipient of the Order of the Palmetto, the state's highest civilian honor, and was previously named a Distinguished Alumnus of Lander.

Tims noted that honoring such graduates provides a "beautiful reminder" of the university's spirit and sets a benchmark for those still in the classroom.

"Events like the alumni awards luncheon show current students examples of what success can look like after graduation," Tims said.

The luncheon concluded with what Tims described as a "deep connection" to the university, emphasizing a sense of pride for those belonging to the Lander family.



currently serves as Lander's vice president for strategic initiatives and chief of staff for President Richard Cosentino. During his time

Carolina National Guard. Before returning to his alma mater in 2008, Taylor served 10 years in the South Carolina House of



PROFILE:

Coach Omar Wattad

By Saige Peterson

Tough, smart and skilled are all traits that Lander's Men's Basketball Head Coach, Omar Wattad, looks for in his players. These kinds of players along with his player-centered, process-oriented coaching style have allowed Lander's men's basketball team to climb up the rankings and make history over these past five years.

When it comes to finding players that fit his team, the coach stated in an interview, "I try to look for humility. I try to look for guys that I think would be able to be coached, coached hard, and have the ability to be over themselves and be humble and can be made fun of." He went on, "And I mean that in the best way possible like guys that can take a joke and just not take themselves too

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WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT:

Career Preparation Begins in the Freshman Year

By Olivia Carbone

When Casey Cline arrived at Lander University in January of 2025, the Office of Workforce and Career Development was in transition. The position had been vacant for nearly two years, and while campus employment support continued, there was no fully staffed career center guiding students from freshman year to graduation.

Just over a year later, much has changed.

Cline, director of Workforce and Career Development, rebuilt the center with a clear philosophy: career preparation is not a senior-year task; it is a four-year journey.

From the beginning, she and her team worked to integrate career development into students' earliest campus experiences, including LINK classes. The goal is to normalize conversations about resumes, networking and internships long before graduation is on the horizon.

First-year students are encouraged to attend career fairs, even if they are not looking for a job yet, simply to practice introducing themselves, collecting business cards and learning how to navigate professional spaces. Sophomores are urged to begin narrowing interests through "meet-and-greets" with professionals, volunteer work or exploratory internships.

By junior and senior year, that early exposure ideally translates into confidence, experience and connections.

"The more you can do, the better," Cline said, noting that experience does not have to be paid to count. She encour-

ages students to label work as "related experience" rather than focusing solely on compensation. Personal projects, social media platforms, coding initiatives or longterm volunteer commitments can all strengthen a resume if students can articulate the skills they gained.

Since stepping into the role, Cline has focused on rebuilding both staffing and visibility. It took six months to fully staff the office, followed by a summer dedicated to training. Each coach completed certification through the

ments are the most common service students seek. Cover letters and internship searches follow closely behind. According to career coaches Evelyn Jones and Raylyn Johnson, many students simply do not know where to start.

"Whether it be a resume, applying for jobs," Johnson started, "they just don't really know where to start."

Jones agreed. "They don't realize how important a resume is. Once we bring that to their attention, then they often don't know where to start."

Beyond formatting, the

"You've got to be proactive," she said. "Don't just send your resume and wait."

Mock interviews, however, remain underutilized. Cline said she believes students underestimate how much interview skills can impact job offers. Often, she sees graduates return months after finishing school, frustrated by unsuccessful job searches. In many cases, weak resumes, poor interviewing skills or unfocused application strategies are the underlying issues.

She also sees a broader misconception: the belief that graduates will land their "perfect job" immediately.

"Keep an open mind," Cline said. "You might start in one place, but within five years you can be in a totally different place."

She shared stories of graduates who began in unexpected roles, including a chemistry major who found success in color engineering at a manufacturing company, and discovered fulfilling careers they had never originally imagined.

The center also works closely with employers and alumni to expand opportunities. Events like "Coffee and Connect" bring spotlight employers to campus, often highlighting the variety of roles within a single organization. A manufacturing company, for example, may need marketing professionals, nurses, accountants and IT specialists, not just production workers.

This year, the office is expanding to include Career Compass mentor program,



National Career Development Association to ensure students receive professional, up-to-date guidance.

In her first semester, Cline was also tasked with launching Lander's first-ever spring career fair, with only two months to prepare. Drawing on contacts from previous institutions and building new local partnerships, she pulled together an event that expanded employer access for students and signaled a new chapter for the center.

Today, resume appoint-

coaches emphasize personalization. A resume should reflect an individual's experiences and strengths, not a generic template downloaded online. The document is often the first introduction to an employer, and it must be intentional.

Another common mistake students make is relying solely on third-party job sites. While platforms like Indeed can be useful search tools, Johnson advises students to apply directly through company websites and follow up when possible.

Lander's New Marketplace Brings Convenience, Variety

By Caleb Johnson

As the spring semester gets underway, students passing through the heart of campus may have noticed a familiar space with a brand-new look. The Greenwood Marketplace now stands as Lander University's updated go-to spot for food, drinks, and everyday essentials, aiming to make campus life more convenient and accessible for students on the move.

The Greenwood Marketplace was placed in the Student Center because it serves as a "retail option located in the heart of campus, supporting students who may not have transportation or time to shop elsewhere," according to Vice President for Finance and Administration Joe Greenthal.

Despite the change in format from the former POD, the mission remains the same: to provide an "easily accessible location to purchase food, beverages, and essential personal items without leaving campus."

In addition to maintaining that mission, the marketplace introduces new goals focused on expanding student access and strengthening connections to the Greenwood community. One initiative that will start next year will allow students to use meal swipes for selecting food items, offering greater flexibility in how meal plans are used. Another goal involves partnering with local Greenwood businesses to feature their products in the marketplace, giving students the

opportunity to support and engage with the surrounding community.

Another major change with the

to apply for positions at the Greenwood Marketplace.

Job openings will be posted on Handshake, where

students can submit applications for available roles at the location.

For those curious about the fate of the former POD, its equipment and shelving will be repurposed for the Bearcat Necessities Food Pantry.

The pantry is scheduled to relocate from its current location in LIDE to the former



Greenwood Marketplace is its approach to hours of operation. Initially, the marketplace will follow the former POD schedule, operating from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and closing at 4:30 p.m. on Fridays. However, University officials emphasize that these hours are subject to change as student traffic and demand are evaluated. Potential adjustments include extended weekday hours and the possible addition of weekend availability, allowing students greater access to food and essential supplies outside of traditional class times.

"We continuously reevaluate traffic and usage to adjust hours of operation," Greenthal said. "We are willing to expand hours from what people are used to with the POD if demand drives a different decision."

Students interested in employment opportunities will also be able

post office building near the Health and Wellness Services Building. University officials plan to outfit the new pantry space using former POD equipment while also incorporating new upgrades.

The former POD space in the Learning Center will be transformed into additional seating and lounge areas for students. Updates will include new patio furniture and refreshed furnishings throughout the first-floor common areas.

"We believe this will provide needed student space for students enjoying The Drop or those wanting a unique place to lounge while waiting for classes," Greenthal said.

While the area may remain temporarily empty during the transition, the University expects the space to be fully furnished and ready for student use by the end of the spring semester.

"We continuously reevaluate traffic and usage to adjust hours of operation."

--Joe Greenthal



Don't Miss the 16th Annual Lander Film Festival

By Eboney Beach

Grab your popcorn — Lander University is getting ready for its 2026 film festival, continuing a campus tradition that celebrates creativity, storytelling and student filmmaking.

The festival, founded in 2010 is an annual showcase for film and collaboration. The festival was originally created to give Lander students access to film-related opportunities but has expanded to include the Greenwood community and the Southeastern arts and film communities. This year's events began Feb. 26 with a kickoff workshop for 23 high school, college and open division filmmakers in the Barksdale Recital Hall.



Dr. Daniel Harrison

On March 17, Lander Sociology Professor and Founder of the Greenwood Film Society Dr. Daniel Harrison will present the film *Slacker* (1991) directed by Richard Linklater. The screening will be followed by a Q&A. This event will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Barrett Hall auditorium,

On March 18, Lander Journalism Professor and Lander

Film Festival Director Dr. Robert Stevenson will present selected first-place short-film entries from the late Sam

Thomas. This event will begin at 6:30 p.m. in Barrett Hall auditorium



Last year's Film Festival honored Sam Thomas, a Lander alumnus and eight-time short film competition winner who had recently passed away. A special screening highlighted moments from Thomas' films. Then Greenwood Mayor Brandon Smith issued an official proclamation recognizing Thomas' contributions and accomplishments. This was followed by Stevenson's announcement that during the 2026 festival, a new Sam Thomas Award would be presented in his memory.

"Sam's hard work, creativity and continued participation - even after his graduation from Lander - represented a passion for filmmaking, collaboration and lifelong learning," Stevenson said.



Dr. Robert Stevenson

This year introduces the first Sam Thomas Award, which will recognize a film crew that shows perseverance, significant achievement despite the odds, and commitment to excellence, with preference given to Lander students, alumni and returning competitors.

On March 19, Associate Dean of the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences and Professor of English and Film Studies

Dr. Misty Jameson will present an exploration of "Alfred Hitchcock's Other Women," highlighting influential figures beyond the actresses of his films— including Hitchcock's wife and screenwriter, Alma Reville.

Regarding the importance of film in society, Jameson said that film provides both an escape and a connection, giving audiences a chance to step into different lives while learning more about their own.

"We could experience someone else's life, we could escape from our own lives, but at the same time, we could also learn — learn about ourselves, learn about our culture, learn about other people," Jameson said. "Film provides us with a lot of opportunities to discover the world and ourselves."

"There are a lot of folks out there who have their own voices, their own stories, and they deserve the chance to be heard and seen just like a famous filmmaker like Steven Spielberg.

For our new generation of

filmmakers, we have to do our best to encourage them to get those stories out there. And I think that the Lander film festival certainly does a good job of that."

Jameson, who serves as one of the Lander short film competition judges, stated, "I find that our filmmakers really take pride in what they do. They



Dr. Misty Jameson

work hard. And we need to reward that and support that as best we can."

Encouraging new filmmakers and connecting the college classroom to the wider arts communities remains at the

heart of the festival.

On March 21, Stevenson will host the 16th Annual Short Film Competition Awards Ceremony from 4-6 p.m. in the Cultural Center Auditorium. Stevenson said the short film competition motivates the filmmakers to think creatively, especially challenging is their requirement to build a story around a specific line of dialogue given to them during the workshop.

"I really enjoy seeing how the filmmakers in all three divisions navigate the creative process," Stevenson said. "We are fortunate to have a full agenda of exciting and stimulating presentations."

As the festival approaches, the goal remains the same: to create a welcoming space where filmmakers can learn and celebrate storytelling together with a long term goal of continuing to enhance the growth of filmmaking in our area.

Preparing for the Next Chapter of Leadership

By Autumn McDonald

One special attribute of Lander University is that it is a community made up of several smaller communities. There are always events on campus, clubs to join and societies to become a part of. For Lander student Mykenzie Hart, ROTC is home away from home.

Hart explained that she always knew she wanted to join the Army and, on this journey, she found Lander, a member institution of the Highlander Battalion, along with Newberry College and Presbyterian College. “I told my Dad (who is a Chief Warrant Officer 4 in the Army) that I wanted to join the Army,” she explained, “and he told me the only way he would let that happen is if I got my degree, so he helped me look into and get started in the program and helped me enlist in the National Guard.” In this program, she was able to take her first

steps in the right direction as she begins her journey into her future career, and into the world.

Hart credits the program with “shaping me into who I am today,” she said. In the ROTC program, she has been able to create lifelong connections and skills that will be invaluable as she continues

to progress in the program and life. “This program has given me friends who I get to have for years past college,”

and conflict management.”

While the program focuses on preparing students to succeed in service after Lander, it

as Company Commander and Battalion Executive Officer,” Hart said. “I have also had the opportunity to lead our

Ranger Challenge team as team captain, and to be a part of a meeting with the South Carolina Veterans Affairs Secretary, as well as a separate meeting of Student Leaders and the South Carolina Lieutenant Governor, Pamela Evette.” These experiences and skills will continue to serve her throughout her life and career.

Hart encourages any prospective student to consider joining ROTC. “Even if they are unsure, they should still at least give it a shot,” Hart said. She related to the anxiety of being unfamiliar with these things. “It can be nerve-racking not knowing anyone and possibly not being familiar with Army things,” she added, “but the people in this program will take you in with open arms. You will have many new friends before your first day is over.

This was the best decision I ever made. It is so fun and so meaningful.”

Hart emphasized that ROTC at Lander “means the world to me. There is not a single word to describe it. The people in this program are like family to me.” And, this is the type of community Lander strives to create.



Hard said, “and even friends who I will be able to work alongside in my next unit... It has taught me many skills that will be useful in my future and brought me some of the greatest mentors, friends and peers... I have developed a level of professionalism, effective communication skills, critical thinking [as well as] time

emphasizes academic achievements, too. Hart says that ROTC “has also helped me to understand that the academic side is just as important as the physical side.”

Participation in ROTC also helps mold cadets into responsible leaders. “I have had opportunities to serve in roles

BEHIND THE SCENES:

Bearcat pride anchored Lander's Homecoming



By Graeme Simpson

Bearcat pride moved from sentiment to spectacle during the first week of February as Lander University celebrated its 2026 Homecoming with a campuswide display of tradition, adaptation and community.

By the time the Bearcats took the court against University of North Georgia on Saturday, Feb. 7, the energy had already built for days. Students raced tri-cycles across campus pavement. Alumni returned to familiar walkways. Families gathered beneath tents as former classmates reconnected, students celebrated and generations of Bearcats shared the same space.

What appeared seamless to attendees was the result of nearly a year of preparation.

“Homecoming is a yearlong planning process,” said Ariel Wingard, assis-

tant director of campus engagement and new student experience. “As soon as the previous homecoming ends, we begin planning the next one.”

Planning intensifies during the summer months, when new concepts

are debated and traditions evaluated. This year’s celebration introduced several updates while preserving cornerstone events.

Organizers restructured student competition divisions, replaced the traditional soap box race with a more accessible “bring your own big wheels” event and held a mid-week ceremonial burn of the Nighthawk, the mascot of University of North Georgia, in advance of Saturday’s basketball

matchup. A Bearcat vow renewal ceremony further emphasized campus identity.

“We had to be really considerate of how we move about suggesting change to traditions that are well honored,”

Wingard said. “But also realize that the students of today aren’t the same students that were here 20 or 40 years ago. So trying to figure out how we balance those two needs, that was probably the most difficult part.”

For Dr. Amanda Darden, vice president for student experience and quality assurance, that balance reflects a broader commitment to student engagement.

“What we’re really trying to do as a university is find opportunities for all of our students to engage,” Darden said. “Whether you’re part of Greek life, part of a student organization or part of a specific major, we want every student to have the opportunity to get involved.”

She said that commitment was visible early in the week when additional student groups asked to join Homecom-



ing competitions after seeing the enthusiasm on campus.

“They saw the excitement and wanted to be part of it,” Darden said. “That’s exactly what we hope for — that the energy keeps growing and that students feel like they can engage at the level they’re comfortable with.”

Saturday’s tailgate, held in partnership with Family Day, featured food trucks, face painting, balloon artists, jugglers, fire performers, golf simulators and a live performance from Freddie McClendon. Wingard stated attendance was the largest homecoming in years, with students, families and alumni intermingling throughout the afternoon.

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Building a Community, a Bearcat Family

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“Really, the main thing is the connection between our present and former students, but then also their families as well,” Wingard said.

Darden said that connection is not incidental.

“It takes an entire university to make sure events go off the way they do,” she said. “People do not always see the background work or the infrastructure that has to be in place, but it really speaks to the cohesion and the community we’ve built. We are putting our students first.”

The week culminated at halftime of the men’s basketball game, when the 2026 Homecoming king and queen were crowned.

Jamari Benjamin, a freshman nursing major from Hartsville representing

“It’s competitive every year,” Wingard said. “We had some pretty tough competition this year.”

Homecoming week also concluded with the presentation of the annual Bearcat Cup, awarded to the student teams earning the most points throughout the week’s competitions. Kappa Sigma captured the blue division title, while Zeta Tau Alpha and Delta Sigma Phi claimed the gold division honors.

For Darden, Homecoming serves a purpose that extends well beyond a single week.

“We are really focusing on helping students understand what it means to be part of the Lander community and part of the Bearcat family,” she said. “We start that from orientation and carry it all the way

through graduation and into alumni life.”

She described Bearcat pride as foundational to long term alumni loyalty.

“When students leave here as strong and proud



the cheer team, was named Homecoming king. Zoe Flanagan, a senior psychology major from Mount Pleasant, also representing the cheer team, was crowned queen. The two were presented their titles by Lander President Richard Cosentino and Darden.

“It is meaningful to recognize students who represent the best of who we are as a campus community,” Darden said. “We tell our students from day one that we believe in them. Moments like that reinforce what it means to be a Bearcat.”

The ceremony marked the conclusion of a selection process that begins weeks in advance with nominations, eligibility checks and student campaigning.

alumni and share what a great experience they had, that helps bring the next generation of Bearcats,” Darden said. “That is how you build a brand and a culture that lasts.”

Wingard said the impact of the week is measured less by attendance numbers and more by the moments she observes in passing.

“There’s something to be said about being the creators of connec-



tion on campus,” she said. “When you see students enjoying themselves and being with each other, it really puts your job into perspective.”

Darden agreed.

“All of our hallmark events are cornerstones of community and pride,” she said. “Homecoming helps develop who we are as a culture. We are always thinking forward, always asking what we can do bigger and better, while still honoring the traditions that matter.”

Over seven days, Homecoming became more than a series of events. It became a reaffirmation of identity, linking generations of Bearcats while signaling the university’s willingness to evolve.

As traditions were honored and new ideas tested, one theme remained constant: a campus committed to connection.



Mascot Burn Ignites Homecoming Spirit at Lander

By Sumaya Winter

Lander University introduced a new Homecoming tradition this year as students gathered for the inaugural mascot burn, a new event coordinated by Campus Engagement to build excitement for the Homecoming basketball game against the University of North Georgia while strengthening campus connection.

The mascot burn focused on creating a lasting student experience. Ariel Wingard, assistant director of Campus Engagement and New Student Experience, explained, “We wanted to start something that lasts, a tradition students talk about years after they graduate. College flies by, but traditions stick.”

The concept emerged in the wake of Hurricane Helene in 2024, as organizers reflected on ways to reunify the campus community. Wingard introduced the idea as an ironic joke that ultimately developed into a Homecoming staple and a gathering meant to signal the start of the celebration ahead of the big game.

“It flips the switch on campus energy,” Wingard added. “Suddenly everyone is a little louder, a little prouder and very ready to cheer on the Bearcats.”

Students in attendance confirmed the mascot burn to be an energizing addition to the week’s celebrations. “This event did a great job of setting the tone of Homecoming with strong school pride and confidence for the matchup,” Lander freshman, Renato Blanco said. “Celebrating a wonderful bonfire and s’mores made it all the better.”

The mascot burn joined several activities scheduled throughout the week, including Opening Ceremonies, The Bearcats’ Vow Renewal, trivia in Up-



town, Bring Your Own Big Wheels and the Polar Plunge. According to Wingard, strong student participation across these programs throughout the week reflected clear student interest in shared traditions and community-oriented experiences.

Looking ahead, organizers hope the

mascot burn will grow into a defining Homecoming tradition for future students and returning alumni.

“If we can give students moments where they look around and think, ‘Yeah, this is home,’ then that is everything,” Wingard said.



Kappa Sigma Wins Homecoming Race

This year's homecoming enjoyed a fun refresh of the former “soapbox races” at Lander, a homecoming tradition where sororities, fraternities, clubs, and even some faculty and staff would race homemade gravity racers from the top of Willson Street.

“We were looking for something new and inspiring on campus,” said Ariel Wingard, director of Lander’s Office of Campus Engagement.

After three laps around the traffic circle by the Finis Horne Arena, it was Kappa Sigma who took first place. Their representative, management/marketing major Dylan Gilder, drove a sparkling blue trike with a set of heavy-duty rear wheels that proved powerful on the track. Gilder came in first place in all three races, leaving all other contestants in his wake.

Somos LU Takes First In Homecoming Trivia

By Andrea Williams

This year's Homecoming Week brought lots of excitement, school spirit, and friendly competition across campus. Somos LU claimed the first-place title at this year's Trivia Night. Their quick thinking and teamwork did not just earn them bragging rights; it also highlighted the powerful sense of community that defines Somos LU.

"Somos is not only a club to represent Hispanic culture all over Lander University," began said sophomore, physical therapy major, Pharell Martinez, "but it is also a family who has each other's back, every single day - all the time." He added, "This is my first year with Somos, and I have enjoyed all the activities and club meetings. If you want to join Somos, be ready to have fun, meet new people, but most importantly, find a new family."

Somos LU is a student led organization that helps students be exposed to Latin American culture. "We

are Latin BASED, not Latin exclusive," Martinez said, "meaning anyone can join our organization. We celebrate our culture by playing games during our meetings as

brating our Latin culture and heritage, we offer support for each other, and we are truly one great familia."

Somos LU is open to all students, including first-year students like George Zuviri and Angel Valente.

"It's because of Somos LU that I've been able to connect with like-minded students of different backgrounds and Latin heritage, foster cultural and Lander pride through events and create a sense of community." said Zuviri, a cybersecurity major. "Participating in this year's homecoming experience has been amazing for me."

Valente, a freshman chemistry major agreed, "As a first-year student new to Lander, I have seen how much fun Lander can be and how much people really interact and are active with these events. I cannot wait to participate in more events and for more homecomings to come." Students who are interest-

ed in joining Somos should email Maria Ibarra, maria.ibarra@lander.edu for more information.



well as holding fundraisers.

Sophomore, Political Science major Desiree Morales added, "Apart from cele-

Sports Management Students Gain Experience at PBC Championship



Lander Sport Management made their annual trip to Gainesville, FL to volunteer at the Peach Belt Conference Indoor Track Championships. According to Assistant Professor of Sports Management David Zinn, "Through pre- and post-event prep, and assisting with social media, ticketing, event management, and more our students got a full Experiential Learning experience on the running of a great event."



PROFILE:

Lander's Environmental Science Student Organization

By **Kaitlyn Beaudreau**
Students at Lander University are turning en-

vironmental awareness into hands-on action through the Environmental Science Student Organization, a campus group dedicated to sustainability, conservation, and community engagement through monthly meetings paired with service projects.

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tunities to learn and make a difference in the community. “Environmental issues

service project immediately after each meeting. Activities are designed to help students explore environmental challenges affecting land, water, wildlife and plant life.

Students may join as active members or attend events as their schedules allow.

“Active members do get a stole at graduation, but for that they pay semester dues, attend at least two ESSO service events, and attend 3 to 4 monthly meetings,” explains Hirani.

Students interested in joining can attend public events such as bird counts and Bug Night. Event information is available on the Involve app, and updates are posted on Instagram at @lander.esso.

Contributed ESSO photos include: clean up and bird-watching (at left), and ESSO president Rida Hirani (below).

The club was revived two years ago under current president Rida Hirani, a senior medical biology major, after it had been deactivated during Covid.

Sponsored by Lisa McDonald, assistant professor of biology, the organization

are something that concern every human, animal, and species – really the entire world – because the health

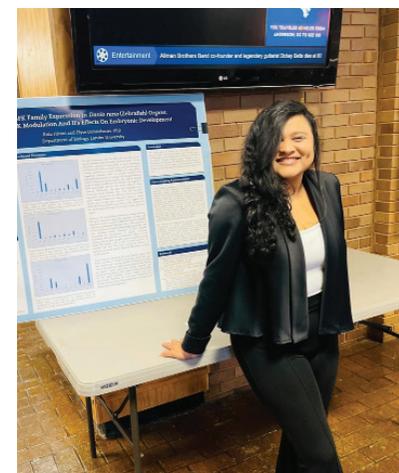
“We had a plant propagation activity at one of our meetings where we prepared plant cuttings and helped them grow into new ones, which promotes plant conservation and teaches students sustainable gardening techniques,” said Hirani.

“Another time, we created bird feeders out of pine cones and peanut butter for our feathered friends and put them up at Camp Fellowship to help local bird populations and raise awareness about how to care for wildlife and maintain

their habitats,” she added.

The organization works both on campus and throughout the Greenwood community. Members partner with Keep Greenwood County Beautiful, an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, and are participating in the Lake Greenwood Cleanup 2026.

The group also received a grant from Strategies for Ecology Education Diversity and Sustainability, or SEEDS, to support a long-term conservation project installing bee hotels and wooden nesting boxes throughout the community.



Lander's XLR Radio Provides a Host of Opportunities

By Olivia Abela

As a member of Lander's XLR student radio staff, this reporter had the opportunity to travel to the Orange Peel in Asheville for a live performance by alternative rock band *They Might Be Giants* this past fall. Along with several other students, we were given media access to cover the show.

Known for their quirky lyrics and genre-blending sound, *They Might Be Giants* delivered a set that felt both nostalgic and fresh.

Between songs, the band joked with the crowd, turning the concert into something personal rather than just another stop on a tour. The setlist balanced fan favorites with deeper cuts. Songs like "Twisting" and "Subliminal" had the entire crowd singing along. The band demonstrated their range by switching instruments, experimenting with tempo, and leaning



The Department of Media and Design presents:

Classes in Audio & Live Production

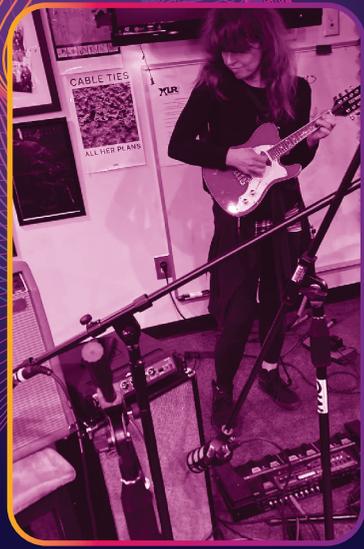
Spring REGISTER NOW! MEDA490

Lander University's only Live event production class with the Media and Design Department is offering a internship/class with a focus on live music production events. Students will learn the ins and outs of a live production from testing equipment, creating stage plots, stage management to setting up a backline, stage production, learn how to record live concerts, set up projections, and engage with live artists. The internship is a mix of classroom interaction and lab work. Students will plan and execute their own live production at the end of the semester under the supervision of the instructor.

Fall MEDA312

Lander University's first Advanced Audio Production course offering every fall semester education in advanced audio mixing using Ableton live, microphone placement techniques, as well as music recording sessions. The program also invites music industry professionals for guest speaker engagements and production master classes. Students with prior audio production experiences may be admitted by instructor approval.

For more information, contact Professor Kresse ckresse@lander.edu

into their signature offbeat style, especially when they performed with the full horn section. Every single detail of the show felt personal and intentional.

The XLR staff shared about all we do, including our student DJ shows, campus events, live music internships, and audio production opportunities. We also explained how people can stream our music online and stay connected with us. We handed out XLR stickers, T-shirts, and posters, which helped spread awareness and gave fans something fun to remember us by. Promoting the station helped us build confidence and practice networking, while learning how to represent our brand in a professional and engaging way.

As a student journalist and XLR team member, this reporter learned that opportunities like this don't just happen; you earn them by getting involved. XLR hosts campus events, runs student DJ shows, provides live music internships, and offers hands-on experience in audio production. Students can learn how to operate soundboards, edit interviews, produce podcasts, and even coordinate event coverage like this concert.

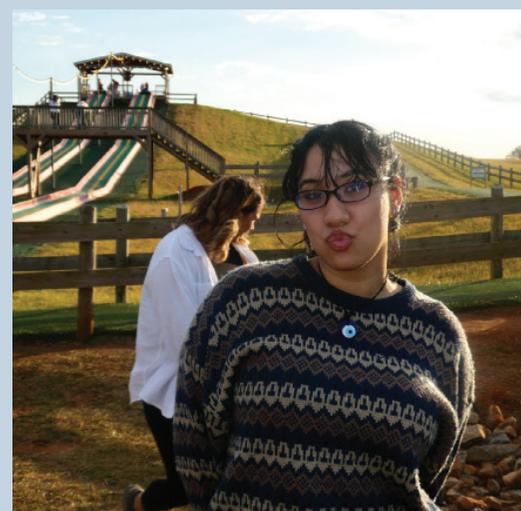
If you're a student looking for creative opportunities, XLR Lander radio is more than a club, it's a launchpad. Whether you want to be behind a microphone, behind a mixing board, or behind the scenes at concerts, getting involved can lead to experiences you never expected, like covering a legendary band on a Monday night in November.

Congratulations New Forum Editors



Two Lander students were recently named to the editorial board of the Lander Forum student newspaper.

"For their commitment to accuracy, objectivity, meeting deadlines, writing and reporting, we are honored to award Siera Bouffard (left) the position of Forum News Editor and Olivia Carbone (right) the position of Forum Entertainment Editor, said Forum Advisor Dr. Robert Stevenson.



Meet Lander Men's Basketball Head Coach

Continued from page 3
seriously. I try to see if they have that in them. And also, competitive. I want guys that are competitive and have it in them and want to win."

Coach Wattad came to Lander University during COVID-19 and was hired on April 6, 2020. Before coaching at Lander, Wattad played D1 for two seasons at Georgetown and then transferred to Tennessee-Chattanooga for his last two years.

It was there at Tennessee-Chattanooga where he compiled 820 points, 230 boards and 119 assists in two seasons with the Mocs as a two-time All-Southern Conference performer. Upon graduation, Wattad ranked fourth all-time at UTC for career three-point field goals, fifth in three-point field goal attempts and 30th in scoring in the program's D-I era according to his coach's profile on the Lander Bearcats website. This collegiate success, along with his pro experience playing overseas in the Republic of Georgia

and Israel, drove Lander to make him head coach.

Coach Wattad said that the idea of coaching came to him in his freshman year at Georgetown. A difficult first season with limited minutes taught him the importance of good coaching and support from the sideline. Wattad



talked about his first-year experience, saying, "I didn't play a lot at all. I sat at the front of the bench near our Opps guy and the assistants. And I would sit there, and listen, and lock in."

This tough experience turned out to be a blessing and allowed Wattad to realize his ability and desire to coach. He said that he

learned, "If you do it the right way, you can have a profound impact on the game, specifically in the result, but also on young men's lives."

It was around then that his dream pivoted from the NBA to overseas, then overseas to coach. Wattad said, "I was fortunate enough to play

ing to Lander where he and the team have found many successful seasons.

While many would describe them as being successful, Wattad said that he does not define success. Rather, he is more process oriented, making improvement day by day. He stated, "If you're the best version of yourselves as a unit by March, you've had a successful season. How successful obviously comes down to Ws (wins) and Ls (losses). But if we maximize our potential because we have a really talented group and they're good guys and they're hardworking and they genuinely care, we will be "successful."

Wattad continues to hold his team accountable while being cognizant of their legs as the team nears the backend of their season. Player health and performance go hand in hand. With a lot of new players in the mix along with some core players returning, Wattad believes that the team will reach their potential this season.

DATA SCIENCE, CIS MAJOR:

Lander Student Reflects on Goldman Sachs Internship

By Olivia Carbone

For Albert Magarire, a junior at Lander University, applying for an internship at Goldman Sachs began as a leap of faith.

Magarire, a data science and computer information systems major with a concentration in software development and a minor in cybersecurity, said he was looking for something beyond what felt familiar. After attending career fairs and speaking with companies closer to Greenwood, he realized he wanted a larger challenge.

“It was really the idea of trying to see what else was out there,” Magarire said. “I wanted something big, something that would push me.”

That search led him online and eventually to Goldman Sachs. He applied to the company without expecting much. When he received the call offering him a position, the excitement was overwhelming.

“They called me on a Friday, and I couldn’t sleep that night,” Magarire said. “I really didn’t think I would get accepted.”

Magarire spent nine weeks last summer as a project manager intern in Goldman Sachs’ Global Banking and Markets Private Transformation Office. While he initially applied with the intention of working in software engineering, the role he was offered ultimately reshaped his career goals.

One of the most challenging parts of the internship, he said, was adjusting to the realities of corporate life.

“A big part of it was unlearning what I thought I knew,” Magarire said. “What we learn in school is important, but the real world is

days looked the same. Working closely with project management teams, Magarire acted as a coordinator between engineers, analysts and managers across multiple time zones.

“I didn’t really have a typical day,” he said. “It depended on which team I was

Though he describes himself as an introvert, Magarire said the role forced him to grow more comfortable communicating with others.

“That was a big challenge for me,” he said. “But it helped me a lot.”

Like many students entering competitive professional spaces, Magarire said he struggled with imposter syndrome early in the internship. He worried that coming from a small school would put him at a disadvantage compared to interns from larger universities.

“I was scared I would be behind,” he said.

Those fears faded as the summer went on. Magarire said he often performed just as well as, and sometimes better than, his peers. During final presentations, he earned top marks, which helped reinforce his confidence.

“It taught me that being at a small school doesn’t mean I’m small,” he said.

The internship also changed how Magarire sees his future. Before working at Goldman Sachs, he envisioned

himself spending his career as a software engineer. After experiencing project management firsthand, he realized he preferred a more people-focused role.

“I liked talking to people and figuring out how to solve problems,” he said. “That surprised me.”

As a result, Magarire is
Continued on page 17



much more complex.”

Instead of using familiar academic tools, Magarire had to adapt to Goldman Sachs’ systems and in-house processes. He said the experience showed him that companies value the ability to learn and adapt more than memorized formulas.

That adaptability was essential, especially since no two

working with and what they needed that day.”

His mornings often started at 7 a.m. so he could communicate with engineers based in India and China before their workdays ended. Most of his time was spent in meetings, tracking progress, identifying obstacles and making sure teams had the resources they needed.

How Lander Prepares Seniors for Life After Graduation

By Maxence Barriere

As graduation gets closer, the question starts to feel more real: what happens after Lander? For many seniors, the final semester is a mix of excitement, pressure, and uncertainty. But according to both faculty and students, Lander University works to help students prepare for life after graduation.

Dr. Michael Houston, Associate Dean of Graduate Programs and Assistant Professor of Marketing, said he be-

lieves preparation starts with developing the right mindset.

“There are so many important skills,” Houston said, “but self-management is critical. That includes managing your time, your attention, and your commitments. Showing up consistently and meeting deadlines are skills that college will sharpen or reveal as weaknesses.”

He also mentioned the importance of collaboration. “Very rare is the career where you are a solo actor,” he said. “Building relationships and learning to work with others is essential.”

For Houston, one of the most important skills students can develop is learning how to learn. “Just because your formal learning has stopped does not mean those skills will not benefit you,” he said. “You’ll keep learning the rest of your life.”

In his classroom, preparation goes beyond textbooks. Houston combines academic material with real-world examples and storytelling. He often

connections help students stay connected after graduation.

However, the transition can still feel overwhelming. Houston said graduation is more than just finishing classes.

“It’s a major life transition,” he said. “Students have had structure for most of their lives, and suddenly that structure is gone. There is also financial responsibility and the loss of a familiar community.”

He said he believes that comparison can make things harder. “Many seniors start talking about their plans, and it’s easy to fall into that trap.”

Lander alumnus Benjamin Bates

understands that feeling. Bates graduated from Lander in 2025 with a bachelor’s degree in business administration and is now completing his MBA with an emphasis in management and accounting.

“I do feel prepared,” Bates said. “But that doesn’t mean I’m not nervous. I think Lander gave me a strong foundation, and now it’s about applying it.”

Bates said internships and classroom presentations helped him the most.

“Working on projects and presenting in front of people

helped me gain confidence,” he said. “You realize quickly that employers care about how you communicate, not just what you know.”

He also used Career Services for resume feedback and to prepare for interviews. “That helped me get a more professional feel,” he said.

When asked what skills he feels confident about now, Bates mentioned teamwork and time management. “Balancing school, work, and athletics while graduating forces you to manage your time well,” he said. “Also, most classes involve group projects. You learn how to work with different personalities.”

Like many seniors, he admits there are worries.

“The hard part is the unknown,” Bates said. “You don’t really know what your first job will look like or if you are making the right choice. But I learned that growth comes from being uncomfortable.”

Houston gave similar advice to students who are nervous about the future.

“Every confident person in the workforce started where you are now,” he said. “Get comfortable saying, ‘I don’t know, but I will find out.’”

As seniors prepare to walk across the stage, the future may still feel uncertain, but through classroom experience, career

resources and personal growth, many students leave Lander with more than just a degree; they leave with the tools to figure out what comes next.



Dr. Michael Houston

invites professionals from the business community to speak to students. In some classes, students work on real problems for local businesses and present their solutions directly to the company.

“That experience changes things,” he explained. “Students see how what they are learning applies outside of the classroom.”

Along with what students learn in classrooms, the university provides structured career support. The Center for Workforce and Career Development offers career coaching, resume reviews, and network guidance. Throughout the year, students can attend career fairs and professional development events. Many majors also require internships or senior capstone projects, which give students exposure to real-world expectations while still in school. Finally, alumni



Benjamin Bates

Woven Together: Lander's New Craft Club

By: Jamaya Morris

A Lander student organization is providing a creative outlet for crocheters and crafters after its president identified a lack of community for students with similar interests. Abigail Mitchell, president of the Lander Craft Club, founded the organization last spring.



Abigail Mitchell

Mitchell learned to crochet at 8 years old from her grandmother, and she regularly attended a crochet club in her hometown. She said that experience influenced her decision to create a similar community at Lander.

“Coming to Lander, I was excited to join a similar club, but there wasn’t one,” Mitchell said. “After a few months of meeting people and realizing that I was not the only crocheter on

campus, I decided to take the steps to making the club official.”

The club focuses on yarn-based crafts such as crochet and knitting, though some members bring loom and stitch projects. Skill levels vary, with experienced members working on blankets,

sweaters, and plushies, while beginners start with a simple scarf pattern to learn basic stitches.

Meetings are informal and require minimal preparation. Mitchell arrives early to set up, share announcements, and plays a family-friendly movie while members work. She also provides one-on-one instruction and said she has taught more than a dozen students how to crochet.

“It is a ‘come if you can,’ ‘don’t worry if you can’t’ sort of space that keeps members coming,” Mitchell said. The treasurer collects an optional \$5 dues to help cover supplies and snacks, but participation is not required.

Students can find information about the Lander Craft Club through YikYak, Snapchat, or the Club’s GroupMe or by contacting Mitchell through her university email which is abigail.mitchell@lander.edu



Career Preparation

Continued from page 4

pairing students with Lander alumni in their desired fields for a semester-long mentorship experience. Alumni panels and classroom collaborations further connect students with professionals who offer real-world insight.

For students who feel uncertain about their career direction, the approach is simple: conversation.

“We ask a thousand questions,” Johnson said with a laugh. “Tell me about yourself. What do you enjoy? What drew you to this major in the first place?”

Listening is key, she added. Often, students reveal clues about their interests and doubts without realizing it.

Cline said she believes uncertainty can be productive. Instead of asking students what they are “passionate” about, a question that can feel overwhelming, she asks what they enjoy doing. From there, the discussion becomes about aligning skills, interests and values with realistic career paths.

Ultimately, the message from the Office of Workforce and Career Development is consistent: use the resources available. “Come see us,” Jones chuckled. “If you don’t want to come to us, we’ll come to you.”

Between classroom visits, career fairs, Coffee and Connect events, newsletters and one-on-one appointments, the center has made itself visible across campus. But Cline stresses that students must take initiative, checking their emails, attending events and scheduling appointments. The office is not a placement agency, she clarified. It cannot hand students a job. What it can do is equip them with the tools to earn one.

Internship to Job Offer

Continued from page 15

now pivoting toward product management. He has already received a full-time offer from Goldman Sachs after graduation and plans to work in Dallas as a product manager supporting software engineering teams.

One of his favorite memories from the summer came outside the office. Goldman Sachs organized a baseball game outing for interns, which marked Magarire’s first time attending a game. Originally from Zimbabwe, he said baseball was completely new to him.

“I was confused, but it was really fun,” he said. “It was nice to spend time with coworkers outside of work.”

Magarire also spent a week in New York City for orientation, where interns from offices around the world gathered.

“That was really eye-opening,” he said. “It made me realize I was part of something global.”

When asked what advice he would give other Lander stu-

dents hoping to land competitive internships, Magarire emphasized involvement beyond academics.

“Companies want more than just good grades,” he said.

During his interview, he spent significant time discussing his volunteer work with Lime Connect, an organization that supports people with disabilities. He said that experience helped him stand out.

On campus, Magarire has been involved in tutoring, working in the registrar’s office, assisting ITS with repairs, participating in the African Students Union and placing as first runner-up in Lander’s Got Talent.

“They don’t seem like big things,” he said. “But those are the things companies care about.”

For Magarire, the experience confirmed that success is not defined by the size of one’s school, but by the willingness to learn, adapt and believe in oneself.

Lander Alumna Returns to Nation's Capital for Career

By **Graham Duncan**

Citlali Avila-Cabrera stands in front of the headquarters of the Organization of American States, where she first interned while a student at Lander University. Avila-Cabrera now works for OAS as a project assistant. Photo submitted by Avila-Cabrera

If one is looking for evidence that the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences at Lander University is preparing its students for lives of public service, they should look no further than to the nation's capital.

tion that consists of governments across the Americas. A year after her graduation from Lander, she found herself back in the capital as a project assistant for the same organization that provided her with a rewarding internship.

A lot of those same projects Avila-Cabrera started on as an intern were in their final stages when she came back to work for OAS as a project assistant. She has found it rewarding to see these projects through to fruition.

During Avila-Cabrera's tenure at OAS, she has been part of the Universal

license or a state-issued I.D. card fairly easily. "That's not always the case everywhere," she said. "Access to identification offices can be harder."

When asked, Avila-Cabrera quickly pinpointed all the ways in which her Lander education translated into her day-to-day career, from the public budgeting class she took for her public administration concentration, to the core academic skills she refined in close-reading, writing and research.

"Right now, I'm doing a lot of research for upcoming projects," Avila-Cabrera said, adding that she has also relied heavily on the courses she took in international relations as part of her political science degree.

"I feel like everything at Lander has been put to use in one way or another," she said.

Her former professors find this career field very fitting for Avila-Cabrera. While a student, her research interests focused on foreign relations within the Western Hemisphere, citizenship and international law. Her senior year included the experience of presenting her own research at a professional academic conference.

Dr. Lucas McMillan, dean of the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, praised Avila-Cabrera for her blossoming career at the Organization of American States, noting that her talents, along with her dedication to her academic and co-curricular activities, were always impressive while a student at Lander. Among other awards and recognitions, McMillan selected Avila-Cabrera for the Dean's Award her senior year with this dedication in mind.

"Citlali was a leader in Lander's student organizations, earned academic scholarships and always had ambitions for a life of public service," McMillan said. "I am joined by several of her former professors in cheering for her continued career success."



Citlali Avila-Cabrera stands in front of the headquarters of the Organization of American States, where she first interned while a student at Lander University. Avila-Cabrera now works for OAS as a project assistant. Photo submitted by Avila-Cabrera

There, Lander students regularly take part in the Washington Semester Program, which includes completing college coursework while also interning for members of Congress, federal agencies and non-profit organizations. Some have even been successful in parlaying those experiences into successful careers.

One recent graduate of Lander University, Citlali Avila-Cabrera, of Greenwood, did just that. She first interned in Washington, D.C. in the fall of 2023 for the Organization of American States (OAS), an intergovernmental organiza-

Civil Identity Program in the Americas. This program promotes access to identity for all persons, particularly those who face challenges in obtaining identification documents, such as birth certificates and I.D. cards. Avila-Cabrera helps plan, coordinate and monitor projects in the Western Hemisphere working toward this goal, and it is work that she is proud of.

"It's something we take for granted in the United States: how easy it is to get an I.D. card here," Avila-Cabrera said, noting that even in the most rural of South Carolina counties, one can get a driver's

States, noting that her talents, along with her dedication to her academic and co-curricular activities, were always impressive while a student at Lander. Among other awards and recognitions, McMillan selected Avila-Cabrera for the Dean's Award her senior year with this dedication in mind.

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ART PROFESSOR:

Holloway to Discuss S.C. Landscapes in Community Lecture



By **Hannah Lovett**

Lander University invites the Greenwood and Lander communities to attend the next installment of the Community Lecture Series Tuesday, Mar. 10, at the Arts Center of Greenwood (120 Main Street). Jon Holloway, professor of art at Lander, will give a presentation titled “Home: The Unique and Vulnerable Landscapes of South Carolina.” The program is free and open to the public, and will begin at 6 p.m., with light refreshments and a cash bar beginning at 5:30

p.m. The lecture will last approximately one hour, with time for questions.

South Carolina spans 32,000 square miles from the coast to the mountains, offering breathtaking beauty that has inspired photographers, poets, scientists, philosophers and citizens alike. However, environmental challenges and population growth jeopardize the natural world daily.

This upcoming lecture will discuss through photography the complex relationship between humans and the environment, emphasizing the need for residents to protect natural spaces for the benefit of future generations.

Lander Students Take to the Hill as Future Educators

On Thursday, February 12, Palmetto State Teachers Association (PSTA) hosted the Lander University PSTA Student Chapter for a Legislative Hill Day event at the South Carolina State House in Columbia. The future educators met with their local delegation members and attended Legislative Committee meetings. Legislative staff led the group on a tour of the Senate chambers.

PSTA Director of Governmental Affairs Patrick Kelly shared a Legislative Update focusing on legislation directly affecting school districts across South Carolina. The group was recognized by Senator Tameika Isaac Devine(D-Richland) in the Senate and Representative Shannon Erickson (R-Beaufort) in the House of Representatives. The Lander PSTA Student Chapter was joined by the Student Chapters from Columbia College and Newberry College. Craig King, PSTA Director of Teacher Leadership, planned the day and he, along with PSTA Director of Association Activities Toni Chewing, served as hosts as the group used their educator voices to advocate for the profession and the students of South Carolina!

The Palmetto State Teacher Association Student Chapters are composed of education majors and all of the members are studying to become public school teachers in South Carolina. The PSTA student chapters are very active on their campuses and represent the future education leaders of our state. Lander Lecturer of Education Dr Amanda Walkup serves as the faculty advisor for the Lander chapter. (Photo submitted)



CONGRATULATIONS on your outstanding service!

Glenn Shaw, Lander's February Employee of the Month

You have a great attitude, spirit, and good work ethic. You do the necessary work that allows the Lander University community to think and grow.



As a reminder, Nomination Forms are located on the HR Forms site and should be delivered to Human Resources no later than the last day of the month for consideration for the following month's award.

Lander Calendar of Events - March

This Forum Calendar includes on-campus events. For more information, visit lander.edu/events.

March 2-6
Spring Break

March 3
Baseball
3 - 6 PM
Bearcats vs. Wingate

March 9-10
Men's Golf
Greenwood Men's Invitational

March 10
Writer's Series: Jenn Blair
3:30 - 5 PM

SGA Senate Meeting
3:30 - 5 PM

Community Lecture Series
5:30 - 7:30 PM
Presenter: Jon Holloway
Reception: 5:30 p.m. Presentation: 6:00 p.m.

March 11
Bearcat for a Day

XLR in the Plaza
11 AM - 1 PM

Women's Lacrosse
1 - 4 PM
Bearcats vs. IUP

Women's Tennis
1 - 4 PM
Bearcats vs. Young Harris

Men's Tennis
2 - 5 PM
Bearcats vs. Young Harris

March 12
Women's History Month
Leadership Talk
6:30 - 7:30 PM

Drag Show
7 - 10 PM

March 13
Baseball
Bearcats vs. Flagler

March 14
Lake Greenwood Cleanup
2026
9 AM - 12 PM

Women's Rugby
1 - 4 PM
Bearcats vs. Furman

Women's Lacrosse
1 - 4 PM
Bearcats vs. Slippery Rock

Men's Lacrosse
1 - 4 PM
Bearcats vs. UIndy

Baseball
2 - 5 PM
Bearcats vs. Flagler

March 15
Miss White Violet
12 - 9 PM

Baseball
12 - 3 PM
Bearcats vs. Flagler

March 16-17
Men's Golf
Bobcat Invitational

Pink Pantry Pop-Up
12 - 3 PM

March 17
Baseball
3:30 - 6:30 PM
Bearcats vs. North Greenville

SGA Meet the Candidates
5 - 6 PM

March 18
Men's Lacrosse
4 - 7 PM
Bearcats vs. Belmont Abbey

Student Recital: Krystal
Rosenbusch, Violin 7 - 9 PM

March 19
Acrobatics & Tumbling
6 - 9 PM

Bearcats vs. Converse

March 20
Softball
5 - 8 PM
Bearcats vs. North Georgia

March 21
Men's Rugby
All Day
Rock the Rock 7s

Open House
9 AM - 5 PM

Women's Rugby
12 - 3 PM
Bearcats Blue-Gold Scrimmage

Softball
12 - 5 PM
Bearcats vs. North Georgia

Men's Lacrosse
1 - 4 PM
Bearcats vs. Virginia State

Men's Tennis
1 - 4 PM
Bearcats vs. Augusta

March 23
Fall Registration for Continuing Students Begins

March 24
SGA Townhall
3:30 - 5 PM
Baseball
5 - 8 PM
Bearcats vs. Mars Hill

Collage Concert
7 - 9 PM

March 25
Softball
2 - 7 PM
Bearcats vs. Lenoir-Rhyne
Let's Talk About Sex with Peer Educators 6 - 8 PM

March 26

Men's Tennis
2 - 5 PM
Bearcats vs. Georgia College

Pathfinders - Art and Storytelling 6 - 7 PM

Senior Recital: Davison Rizzo, Tenor 7 - 9 PM

March 27
Women's Tennis
2 - 5 PM
Bearcats vs. Georgia College

Women's Rugby
6 - 9 PM
Bearcats vs. Queens

Baseball
6 - 9 PM
Bearcats vs. Georgia Southwestern

March 28
Men's Rugby
SRC 7s

Ring Ceremony and Brunch
11 AM - 2 PM
Alumni

Baseball
2 - 5 PM
Bearcats vs. Georgia Southwestern

March 29
Women's Tennis
10 AM - 1 PM
Bearcats vs. Barton

Baseball
1 - 4 PM
Bearcats vs. Georgia Southwestern

March 30-31
Men's Golf
All Day
Argonaut Invitational

MAT Exhibit
All Day

March 30-April 15
Senior Recital: Benjamin Bagwell, Tenor
7 - 9 PM