



# LANDER UNIVERSITY

## Alumni Newsletter

*Spring Edition*

The Alumni Association | 864-388-8351 | [www.lander.edu/alumni](http://www.lander.edu/alumni)

MAY 30, 2024

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### THE LANDER ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WELCOMES 643 NEW MEMBERS FROM THE CLASS OF 2024



Dr. Matthew T. Logan, President and CEO of Self Regional Healthcare, drew on the wisdom of his great-grandmother, a Lander alumna from the Class of 1908, when he addressed the graduates - 89% of whom are South Carolinians, representing 44 South Carolina counties - during Lander's 169th commencement ceremonies.

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## 2024 Lander Ring Ceremony

On March 16th, Lander University held its fourth Ring Ceremony and honored 61 future alumni with over 350 family and friends in attendance.

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## 250 Seniors gather for Annual Picnic

Lander University's Seniors gathered on April 8th for the annual Picnic. The graduating seniors enjoyed this tradition during their final days as a Lander student.

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## Mufuka Scholars Program Commemorates 20 Years at Lander University

The Mufuka Family and Mufuka Scholars gathered earlier this month to celebrate 20 years of philanthropy, academic accomplishments, and most importantly, family. Dr. Douglas and Mrs. Jean Mufuka have generously invested \$2.1 million in this scholarship program to support 23 students over the past two decades. The 24th Mufuka Scholar will start at Lander this fall.

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## Celebrating the Abney Foundation's 33 Years of Impact

In March, Dr. Lisa McWherter, Executive Director of the Abney Foundation, visited campus to meet the 67 recipients of the Abney Foundation Scholarship. Over the last 33 years, the

Abney Foundation has generously provided \$1.6 million in scholarship support to over 1,700 Lander students.



Van Taylor is entering his 40th year at Lander University, having served as the Head Men's Soccer Coach for 30 of those years. Van has been instrumental in building the Lander men's soccer program into what is considered one of the premier men's soccer programs in the country. Year in and year out, the soccer team competes at the highest level of the Peach Belt Conference and NCAA Division II men's soccer. To celebrate and honor Van's accomplishments with the men's soccer program, his former players have established a scholarship in his name. This scholarship will be used to help recruit high impact players to the men's soccer program and continue the tradition of excellence both on the field and in the classroom.

**To contribute to the scholarship, DONATE TODAY!**

**More News from Lander**

For the ninth consecutive year, Lander University's Board of Trustees have voted to freeze tuition for the upcoming academic year.

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Academic Departments held their annual Pinning and Academic Awards ceremonies this spring.

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## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Lander Alumnus Blake Bishop'24 was one of this year's finalists for the South Carolina Teacher of the Year. Bishop is a fifth generation teacher and teaches at Ware Shoals High School. He graduated this spring with a Master of Education in Learning and Technology with a focus in instructional technology alongside his wife, Natalie Bishop.

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Have an idea for a story? Know a graduate we should spotlight?  
Share it with the Alumni Association.



## Upcoming Events

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| JUN   | <b>The South Carolina Festival of Flowers in Greenwood</b> The annual South Carolina Festival of Flowers in Greenwood celebrates the beginning of summer! Read more information about the annual Festival of Flowers in Greenwood, SC <a href="#">here</a> .   |
| 6-9   |  |
| JUL   | <b>2024 South Carolina BBQ &amp; Blues Festival of Discovery</b> The annual South Carolina BBQ & Blues Festival of Discovery celebrates the history, culture, food, and more that make South Carolina and Greenwood County an incredible place to live and visit. Read more information about the annual South Carolina Festival of Discovery <a href="#">here</a> . |
| 11-13 |  |
| AUG   | <b>Freshmen Move-In</b> Freshmen Move-In for the 2024-2025 academic year will begin on August 14.  |
| 14    |  |

AUG  
14-16

## LAUNCH into Lander

LAUNCH into Lander will kick off on August 14. This will include several festivities to welcome freshmen to campus.

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19

## Fall Classes Begin

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*Do you have any questions or content to share with us?*  
We would love to hear from you, please reach out to us at:  
The Lander Alumni Association  
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