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LANDER UNIVERSITY

Alumni Newsletter

Summer Edition

The Alumni Association | 864-388-8351 | www.lander.edu/alumni

August 30, 2024

[Visit Our Web Site](#)

OUR NEWEST BEARCATS



Lander Foundation and Alumni Affairs staff helped welcome the newest Lander students on Move In Day! This fall's class is the largest cohort the university has ever seen, with 1,471 new students. On August 16th, the Lander Launch brought together students, faculty, and staff to welcome our newest Bearcats and to formally launch their Lander experience,

[Read More About Our New Class Here >>](#)

[Read More About The Lander Launch Here >>](#)


Know a high school junior or senior who would benefit from attending a Fall Open House? [Register Now!](#)



LANDER UNIVERSITY
Homecoming 2025
FEBRUARY 14-15




HONORING CHIPLEY HALL'S 100th BIRTHDAY #Chipley100



Remembering Chipley Hall
If The Walls Could Talk
Molly Mitchell Spearman '77

Lander alumna and South Carolina's former Superintendent of Education, **Molly Mitchell Spearman '77**, fondly recalls the day she moved into Chipley Hall, "My Mom and Dad dropped me off with everything I needed in a footlocker. My second-floor room was huge, and once I settled in, I quickly realized the tile floor was a perfect place to hold dance parties; so, we danced often...much to the chagrin of our house mother!" With a smile, Spearman notes that her memories of her time in Chipley Hall "are central to her Lander experience because Chipley is just a very special place."

Share your Chipley story by emailing us at alumni@lander.edu!
#Chipley100



Meet Our Alumni Staff



Brittany Bratcher Tims '11, '22

Director of Alumni Affairs and Annual Fundraising

Brittany Bratcher Tims '11, '22 assumed the role of Director of Alumni Affairs and Annual Fundraising on March 1, 2024.

Tims graduated from Lander in 2011 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Political and Social Sciences and in 2022 with a Master of Science in Management. During her time as an undergraduate student, she was very involved in student life and her sorority. Tims returned to Lander in 2017 when she accepted a role in the Office of University Advancement.

“I’m both honored and humbled to serve Lander University in this role, and I look forward to strengthening the bonds and providing meaningful engagement opportunities between Lander Alumni and our alma mater,” said Tims.

Brittany is married to Andrew Tims, who also graduated from Lander in 2011. The couple resides in Greenwood, South Carolina and share three children.



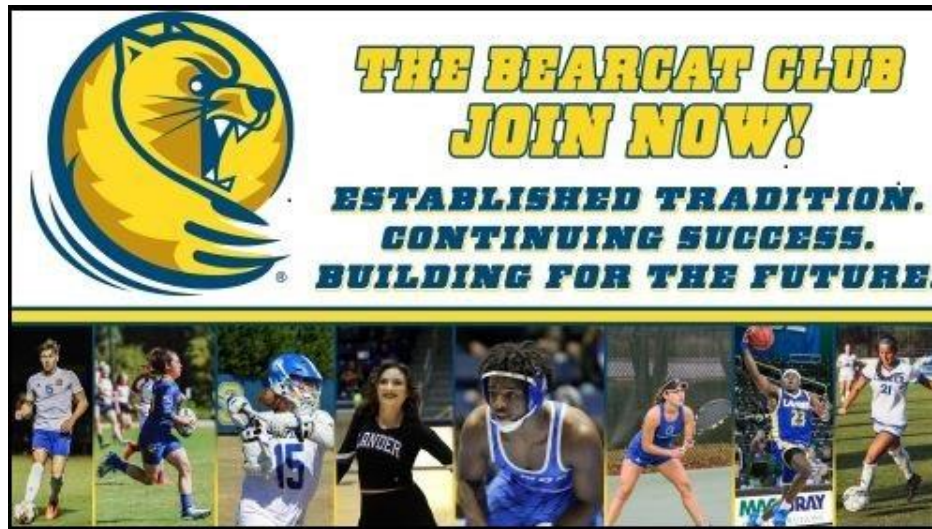
Kathryn Wypasek Roberts '19

Stewardship and Scholarships Coordinator

Kathryn Wypasek Roberts '19 assumed the Stewardship and Scholarships Coordinator position on April 22, 2024.

Roberts graduated from Lander in 2019 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminology, a Master of Arts in Higher Education from Caldwell University in 2022, and is on track to graduate from Lander with a Master of Business Administration in December 2024. During her time as an undergraduate student, she was involved with the Student Alumni Association and Sociology Club. She was a student worker for the University Advancement office for all four years. Roberts previously worked in the Office of Admissions at Lander.

Kathryn married Jake Roberts, who will graduate from Lander in December as well, in October 2023. They reside in Greenwood, South Carolina with their two cats.



JOIN THE BEARCAT CLUB

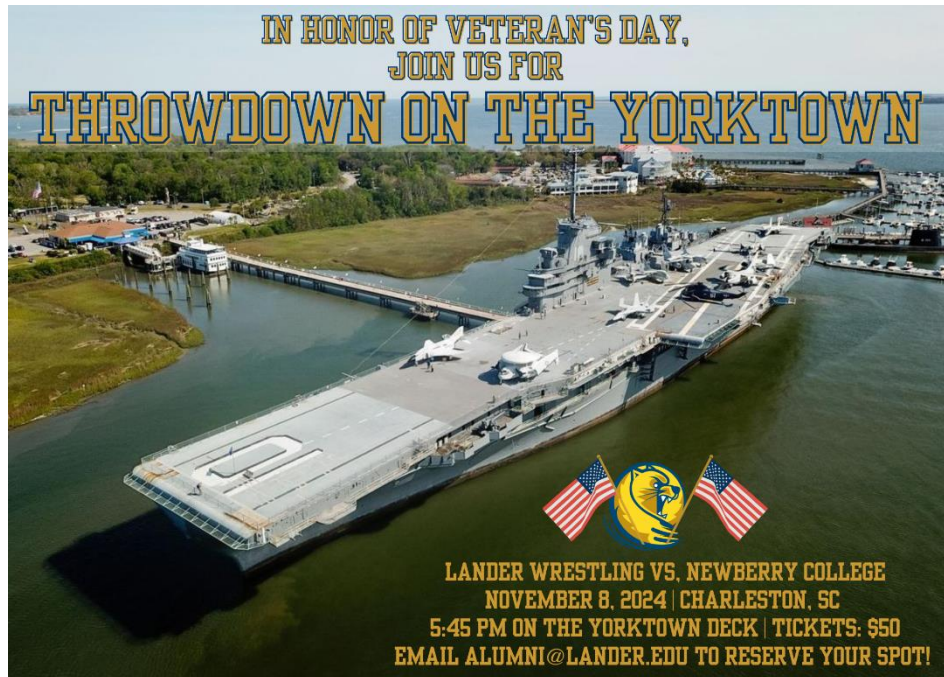
The BEARCAT CLUB supports the overall mission of the athletic department by helping enhance the collegiate experience of our 750 student-athletes both on the field of play and in the classroom. At Lander, we invest in athletics because we believe sports provide a powerful platform for personal growth and leadership development. Your support helps us shape our student-athletes into tomorrow's leaders. The annual contributions of Bearcat Club members provide vital resources that help us maintain first-class facilities, support twenty-five (25) varsity sports, and fund scholarships for student-athletes.

In the 2023-2024 academic year, Lander student-athletes thrived. The average GPA for the athletic department was 3.326, and we had the Peach Belt Conference's Men's Scholar-Athlete of the Year. We also had seventeen (17) All-Americans, six (6) Players of the Year, three (3) Freshmen of the Year, sixty-eight (68) All-Conference Players, and 230 team wins. The scoreboard was definitely in our favor!

Our success is your success; thank you for your generous support!

[Join the Bearcat Club TODAY! >>](#)

[2024-2025 Bearcat Athletic Schedule >>](#)



ONLY 12 TICKETS LEFT!

JOIN US FOR THROWDOWN ON THE YORKTOWN

Help us cheer on Lander Wrestling as they take on Newberry College on the deck of the U.S.S. Yorktown on November 8, 2024 in Charleston, SC! Only 12 tickets left, so claim yours by emailing alumni@lander.edu

LANDER WRESTLING HIGHLIGHTS (in the 5 years since the program began):

- 2-time NCAA National Champion Runner-Up
- 2 NCAA Individual National Championship winners
- 1 Individual National Champion Runner-Up
- 14 NCAA Academic All-Americans
- 2 NCAA Wrestling Super Regional Championships
- 3 Conference Regular Season & Tournament championships

CLASSROOM TO CAREERS: ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS



Maria Rubio '24 took her Lander education from the Plaza Mayor in Madrid, Spain to Time Square. She shares the impact of her study abroad adventure.

[Read More »](#)



Lander alumni are leading classrooms throughout South Carolina and beyond, preparing students for success in college or in the workforce after graduation. Five alumni, who have taught music at various grade levels in their careers, share in their own words why music education is such an important part of that preparation.

[Read More »](#)



Erynn Bailee Price '24 --who received the Dean's Award and the Barbara A. Jackson Award for best senior thesis-- is taking her love of history, culture, and fashion to graduate school this fall.

[Read More »](#)

Tell us what you are doing! Share your stories with us by emailing alumni@lander.edu

More News from Lander, [Read Here »](#)



We've launched...another school year is off to a great start! Classes are underway; organizations, clubs, and Greeks are recruiting new members; and the renovated dining hall is bustling with activity. Campus is alive!

Whether our students are first-years or seniors, they often spend the first part of the semester building relationships with people on campus—especially with faculty members. As a Lander alum, you no doubt remember the faculty members and mentors who sparked your academic interests, guided your intellectual and personal development, and helped foster your post-graduate success.

Today's families can still rest assured that our students are being inspired by professionals who have a heartfelt commitment to student success. Lander is dedicated to providing the resources necessary to support each student and help them craft their own Lander Experience.

For 152 years, Lander University has been a special place where students grow into tomorrow's leaders. Please visit us and see firsthand all the exciting things happening here. Reminisce, reflect, reengage, and reunite with classmates, faculty, and friends. Homecoming weekend is February 14-15, 2025. We hope you'll plan to come back then.

Today, we hope you'll **GIVE A GIFT** to the Lander Excellence Fund and help make the Lander Experience possible for another generation of talented students. Thank you!



LAST CALL FOR
ALUMNI AWARDS
NOMINATIONS



Do you know a Lander alum who has done outstanding work or been recognized for their achievements?

Nominate them today!

www.lander.edu/alumni-awards

The deadline for the 2024 Alumni Awards nomination submissions is **September 1, 2024.**

ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

'90s

Wendy Capps '98 was elected to the Lander Alumni Association Board.

'00s

Justin Singleton '07 graduated from the University of Memphis with a Doctorate of Social Work in August 2024. While enrolled, he received the 2023-2024 DSW Student of the Year and graduated from the École Pratique de Service Social (School of Social Work) Study Abroad program in Paris, France.

Sym Singh '07, current Director of State Government Affairs for Scout Motors, was elected to The Lander Foundation Board of Directors and begins his 3 year term in September.

'10s

Katie Farr '10 was named the 2024 Spartanburg District 5 Teacher of the Year and was a finalist for the 2025 South Carolina Teacher of the Year.

Erin Garland Nodie '14 was elected to the Lander Alumni Association Board.

The novel, *The Big Game is Every Night*, by Lander English alumnus Robby Maynor '15 was selected as one of two books from South Carolina in the Library of Congress' 2024 "Great Read from Great Places" award list.

Jordan Beeler Roloff '16 was elected to the Lander Alumni Association Board.

Graham Duncan '17 was named the 2024 recipient of Lander's prestigious Alston Award.

'20s

Abby Silon '20 graduated in May 2024 from Georgia Southern University with a Master's in Public History. She has accepted a job offer from Clemson University as an educator and interpreter for the African American Burial Ground and Woodland Cemetery History Preservation Project.

James Gibson Hill '20 was promoted to Uptown Manager for the City of Greenwood and elected to the Lander Alumni Association Board.

BIRTHS

Ivy Gibson Burgess '20 and husband, Jamie, welcomed their twin daughters on October 12, 2023.

Hannah Towns Carbjal '23 and husband, Demetrius, welcomed their daughter on October 12, 2023.

Tanner Eklund '20 and wife, Hayley, welcomed their son on October 13, 2023.

Graham '17 and Bre Duncan '19 welcomed their son on August 10, 2024.

WEDDINGS

Haleigh McMillan '21 married Koty Adams on September 23, 2023 in Greenwood, South Carolina.

Kathryn Wypasek '19 married Jake Roberts on October 13, 2023 in Saluda, South Carolina.

Kathryn is the daughter of Lander alumna, Angela Southerland Wypasek '90.

Halie Finotti '22 married Lane Chapman '22 on November 18, 2023 in Greenwood, South Carolina.

Brooke Trotter '19 married Jassill Fernandez on March 23, 2024 in Gray Court, South Carolina.

Hannah Bridges '23 married Paul Lanigan on May 11, 2024 in Sullivan, Missouri.

SHARE YOUR NEWS!

Email alumni@lander.edu with your news to be featured in our next Newsletter!

Upcoming Events

2024-2025 Community Lecture Series Kickoff:

Sept

3

6 PM, Arts Center of Greenwood, Uptown Greenwood

The 2024-25 Community Lecture Series, hosted by Lander University and the Arts Center of Greenwood, kicks off Tuesday, September 3, with a lecture from Dr. William Ramsey, professor of history at Lander. Titled, "Fighting Infamy: A Marine Fighter Pilot's Epic Stand at the Battle of Wake Island," Ramsey's lecture draws on research from his new book, "Wake Island Wildcat," available for pre-order now on Amazon or wherever good books are sold. The event is free and open to the public.

Reception at the Lander Art Galler:

Sept

5

5 PM, Lander Art Gallery, Abney Cultural Center

The community is invited to join the Department of Art + Design for a reception and conversation with visiting artists Jorge Rojas and Siara Yazmin. The exhibit, titled "Mujer: Sanctuary," will be on display in the gallery beginning August 21 through September 25. The reception and visits to the gallery are free and open to the public, and the gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Sept

17

Constitution Day with Jason Zacher

3:30 PM, Carnell Learning Center 300

Join the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences for a Constitution Day discussion featuring accomplished Upstate South Carolina civic leader, Jason Zacher, former Vice President of the Greenville Chamber of

Commerce and President of Bridge Public Strategy Group. This event is free and open to the public.

Sept
24

Music Faculty Recital 7 PM, Abney Cultural Center Auditorium

This event is free and open to the public.

Sept
28

Lander Parent & Family Engagement Day

Oct
8

Wind Ensemble Concert

7 PM, Abney Cultural Center Auditorium

This event is free and open to the public.

Oct
5

Lander University Open House

[Register Now!](#)

OCT
10

"Home-Land" Art Exhibit

5 PM, Lander Art Gallery, Abney Cultural Center

The Exhibit will run October 1 - November 13.

Oct

22

Community Lecture Series: "Disaster Preparedness and Response 35 Years after Hurricane Hugo" 6 PM, Arts Center of Greenwood, Uptown Greenwood

Political Science and Homeland Security professor Dr. Mathew Malone uses Hurricane Hugo as a case study to consider how the federal government can assist following a disaster and how individuals can prepare for these events.

Oct

24

Honors Recital 7 PM, Abney Cultural Center Auditorium

This event is free and open to the public.

OCT

25

Benjamin Mays Documentary Screening, Narrated by Lewis Gossett Jr. 5 PM, Abney Cultural Center Auditorium

This event is free and open to the public.

Nov

9

Lander University Open House

[Register Now!](#)

Have an idea for a story? Know a graduate we should spotlight?

Share it with the Alumni Association.



To optimize viewing capabilities, be sure to use the most up to date version of Outlook



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Summer Edition

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
320 Stanley Avenue, Greenwood, SC 29649
Alumni@lander.edu | www.lander.edu/alumni | 864-388-8351



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