



LANDER UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTIAL

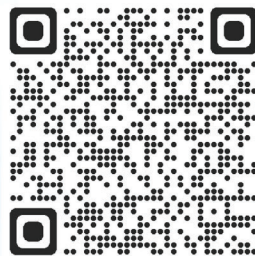
Polar Plunge

THURSDAY, FEB. 8 AT 3:30 P.M.
LANDER'S OUTDOOR POOL

President Cosentino will plunge into the icy waters of Lander's beautiful new pool in celebration of reaching our **\$75,000** scholarship fundraising goal!

Event open to **ALL**
Students,
Faculty & Staff.

Enjoy Refreshments,
Games & Firepits



Participants receive a

FREE

Lander t-shirt &
limited-edition
Lander beanie!

Can YOU Brave the Cold?

Students can register for the chance to join President Cosentino in the Plunge!

PARTICIPATION IS LIMITED
SCAN TO REGISTER BY FEB. 1



Spotlighting Lander's Honors College

By Graham Duncan

Founded in 2013, the Honors College at Lander University celebrates its ten-year anniversary this academic year. Since its inception, hundreds of Lander students have graduated from Lander University as Honors College graduates, embarking on exciting career paths or completing graduate and postgraduate degrees at some of the country's top institutions. As we commemorate this significant milestone for the Honors College, let's take a look at the top ten things our students love most about the Honors College at Lander.

10. The academic advising (and career/life advice) you get from Dr. Craton and Dr. Barnette

Dr. Lillian Craton and Dr. Sean Barnette go far beyond their roles as professors of English. As the director and assistant director of the Honors College (respectively), they are the encouraging voices students often need during their time at Lander. They have put many Honors College students on path towards future career success, and they both continue to be the encouraging voices and the biggest cheerleaders of our members. We would be remiss if we didn't start this list off right by giving them the recognition they deserve.



9. Access to the Honors College lounge... and the snacks!

Members of the Honors College at Lander have exclusive access to the Honors College lounge located on the third floor of the Carnell Learning Center. This gives students the space they need to work collaboratively on projects, complete homework assignments, and even play a few games of Cards Against Humanity in between classes. Dr. Craton also keeps the lounge stocked with snacks, which come in handy during intense study sessions.

8. Honors College housing options

In the Honors College, your peers aren't just classmates - they're life-long friends. In addition to having the chance to learn together in the classroom, Honors College students can also choose to live together by sharing suites with fellow members in Centennial Hall. It's a lot like the Gryffindor common room, except the Honors College doesn't have its own Quidditch team... at least not yet!

7. Enriching Honors College seminars

As an Honors College student, you'll have a full list of fun and exciting courses to choose from each semester that can complement your chosen major, as well as challenge you to apply classroom learning to complex situations. You might take Contemporary Asian Pop Culture and The Sociology of Food one semester. You might take Inventing Languages and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) the next. Honors courses are academically challenging, but equally rewarding.



College study tours in the summer months.

6. Exclusive study tour, "break-away" and study abroad opportunities

To complete the Honors College curriculum, students will complete one "break-away" opportunity. This means a semester-long study abroad opportunity, or a summer internship "away" from home, such as an internship in Washington DC. Members also take a course on travel which includes a trip to a larger metropolitan area, such as New York City, and have the chance to participate in Honors

5. Unique internship opportunities

All Lander students are encouraged to take their Lander education into the real world to gain additional hands-on experience and build relationships with industry professionals. Members of the Honors College benefit from having a strong network of Honors College connections that have helped some students land internships that stand out on resumes and graduate school applications. Recent students have worked with the Organization of American States, the National Federation of Independent Businesses, the American Chemical Society, and the Tupiza Tortoise Center of the Galapagos Islands... just to name a few!

4. Campus involvement

Honors College members are some of the most active participants of Lander's student life. The social committee routinely plans networking events, community service projects and social gatherings throughout the academic year. Meanwhile, Honors College students are known to serve in leadership positions in a number of clubs and organizations outside the Honors College as well.

3. The chance to showcase your research at academic conferences

In the Honors College, you don't just simply take the courses you need for your college degree. Instead, you're challenged to think about how



the lessons you learn inside the classroom are applicable to the world outside of college. The Honors College has paid for hundreds of students to participate in academic conferences across the country, sharing what they've learned at college with a larger audience and explaining how their research affects their communities.

Continued on page 3

Lander Honors College: Celebrating 10 Years

Continued from page 2

2. Priority registration for classes - Of course, we can't forget why you're at Lander in the first place: to receive a rewarding education that will help you launch your career. Membership in the Honors College comes in handy each and every semester when registering for courses. Maybe there's a particular course you want to take, or a specific section that works best with your busy schedule. Being a member of the Honors College means you get to register before a lot of your other classmates.

1. Meaningful connections with students from different class years and majors The Honors College has made many of its alumni lifelong friends. Some have been roommates and co-workers after graduation from Lander. We've even had a few Honors College alumni weddings, too. Lander's Honors College is made up of students from across campus. Some study literature, music, history, and political science. Others study biology, sociology, mathematics and chemistry. The Honors College brings together individuals from a variety of different academic disciplines, cultures and walks of life.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

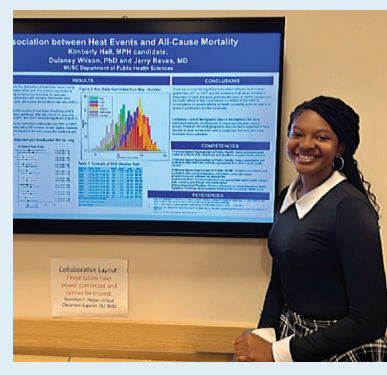
To celebrate 10 years of the Honors College, we're sharing updates about some of our amazing Honors alumni.



Here's SKYLAR BROWN, class of '22: "I am in my second year of teaching 3rd grade in Greenwood District 50, and loving every moment. I am currently working through Lander to gain my Masters in Diverse Learners! When not at school or working on assignments, I'm usually traveling, spending time with family, or trying to put a dent in my big list of TBR books!"



Here's SAVANNAH BATES, class of '22: "Since graduating from Lander, I've started my career as a Graphic Designer at Splash Omnimedia, a full-service marketing agency in Lexington, SC. Each day, I get to utilize my creativity and work on impactful projects for a variety of clients. From websites and social posts to billboards and brands, I love watching my designs come to life across a wide range of digital and traditional platforms. The opportunity to explore fresh ideas and try new things in a collaborative environment is my favorite part!"



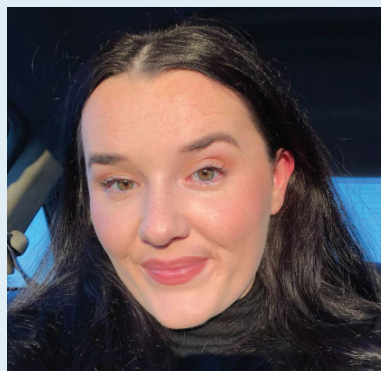
Here's KIMBERLY HALL, class of '22: "I earned my Master's of Public Health with a concentration in Epidemiology from MUSC this past December. I recently completed and presented my MPH Capstone analyzing the correlation between extreme heat events and mortality rates in the Lowcountry area. I am currently a Program Coordinator at MUSC, involved in the NIH ECHO research study examining the influence of environmental factors in a pregnant person's life on infant health and development."



Here's J.D. WHITT, class of 2018: "I am currently working as the Program Director for the Blue Ridge Council of the Boy Scouts of America and as the Camp Director for Camp Old Indian. I work with teams of volunteers to prepare for and run all of the camps, trainings, and events we host across the 8 counties of the Upstate as well as getting everything ready for summer camp at Camp Old Indian (summer number 14!) We just celebrated our 100th anniversary of the Blue Ridge Council and are preparing our 100th anniversary of Camp Old Indian in 2026."



Here's JEREMY BABB, class of '11 and a graduate of the Honors International Program: "I am a Litigation Attorney with Morgan & Morgan and recently found out I was selected to Super Lawyers 2024 Georgia Rising Stars list. My wife Ashley (also a Lander Alumni) and I have been married for 12 years and have a son, Lawson. We are very excited (especially Lawson) to welcome our daughter, Emersyn, to the world on January 22, 2024."



Here's PAIGE (FOWLER) BOEKE, class of 2018: "After graduating from Lander with my English degree, I went on to earn my Master of Arts in Technical and Professional Writing and now work in communications for the nuclear industry. I live in North Augusta, SC with my husband Bryce. We love traveling and seeing friends!"



Here's CHASE O'DELL, class of '18, and MEG (LACOMBE) O'DELL, classes of '18 and '20: "We loved Lander so much we decided to start our family nearby! Chase enjoys his five minute commute to work in the office of Planning, Analytics and Decision Support at Lander. Meg is living the lab life at the Greenwood Genetic Center (Happy 50th GGC!). You can find them walking around campus on sunny weekends with their son, Leo, and their dog, Olive."



Here's IVEY GIBBS, class of 2019: "After graduating from the Honors College, I received my MA in Cultural Heritage and Resource Management from the University of Winchester (which is also where I spent my junior year of college). When Covid

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Student Spotlight:

Crawford succeeds despite visual challenges



By Bryce LeCroy

Imagine exiting a dark movie theater just as a movie ends. Light enters your eyes, and there almost seems to be a bright flash; then your eyes adjust to their new brighter surroundings. Now imagine what it would be like if your eyes never adjusted.

This is how public health student Riley Crawford described Leber Congenital Amaurosis type 1, a disease that she and only forty thousand other people in the United States deal with daily. Importantly, Crawford explained that she has not let this disease hinder her academic success. Before coming to Lander University, Crawford stated that she had the highest ACT score at her high school. And now that she is in her second year at Lander, she still has not let her pencil rest on the table. Not only is Crawford a member of Lander’s Honors College, she is also the President of Lander’s Public Health Association and the Public Health representative of the college’s Student Nurse Association.

But this does not mean that campus life has come without its struggles. Crawford stated that she thinks, “The campus design just isn’t that good for people with visual impairments.” She attributed this mostly to limbs on sidewalks, the steepness of stairs, and the distance to buildings like Lander’s Academic Success Center. Despite this, Crawford still enjoys life on campus. She stated, “I love this campus because it's big enough to where you can be anti-social, but small enough that people treat you like a person and not like a number.”

Lander Assistant Professor of Public Health in the School of Nursing Dr. Claire Marie Mensack stated, "Riley was one of my students in a Global Health course that I taught in the fall. After class one day she and a group of students came to me asking if we could create a public health club. So those students including Riley and myself sat down one day and discussed what we wanted to do." She explained that together they wrote a mission statement, held elections and completed university forms. Mensack became the faculty advisor for LU Public Health Association and Crawford was elected president.

Regarding Crawford, Mensack stated, "If we all lived in a sightless world, we would be at such a disadvantage because what Riley has learned in her life is that physical vision is only one small way to 'see' the world. Her sense of vision, although not physical, is deeper and more profound than what our physical sense of vision gives us. Riley sees with her mind, her intelligence, her hands, her feet and in a greater sense her soul. Helen Keller stated, “A bend in the road is not the end of the road... unless you fail to make the turn.” and John Maxwell stated, “The only guarantee for failure is to stop trying.” Mensack added, "Riley continues to navigate and walk the paths, the bends and turns in the roads before her. She does so with grace, positivity, happiness and an eagerness to learn and to grow.

When asked if there was anything she wanted readers to take away from her time on campus, Crawford stated, “There is more to me than just my blindness.” She added, "People with disabilities are still just people. One of the worst things about being disabled is that people treat me differently than if I were sighted. Most people with disabilities want to be treated like everyone else. We all have something that makes our lives harder; you can just see mine."

Call Me Mister Program Produces Community Leaders

By Mackenzie Norris

The Call Me Mister program focuses on enhancing diversity in K-6 classrooms, specifically targeting African American men aspiring to enter the education field. Students who join Call Me Mister learn skills such as leadership, collaboration, communication, a deeper understanding of African American teachers, and the ability to advocate for positive change.

Assistant Professor of Education Dr. Rachel Schiera expressed her vision for Call Me Mister students, urging them to, “Go out and be community leaders.” The program was introduced at Lander University by Judy Neufeld and Gavin Bethea.

Participants in the Call Me

Mister program benefit from mentorship in leadership, ambassadorship opportunities, enhanced teaching efficiency, and substantial personal growth.

Through Call Me Mister, a sense of community and family is fostered, emphasizing the lasting impact of this initiative on both individuals and the educational landscape.

In the future, the Call Me Mister program has the potential to play a pivotal role in fostering greater diversity in classrooms. Participants in the program, equipped with skills

in leadership, collaboration, and advocacy, can make a significant impact by returning to communities that are often underserved.

es, thereby creating a positive ripple effect in education and societal development.

The Call Me Mister initiative



By channeling their education and experiences gained through the program, these individuals can contribute to the betterment of communities with fewer resources,

not only prepares future educators but also instills a sense of community service and responsibility, promising a brighter and more inclusive future for underserved areas.,

Polar Plunge

Lander's president is inviting a limited number of students to brave the cold and join him in the Polar Plunge on Thursday, Feb. 8, at 3:30 p.m.

Participating students need to register by February 1, and they will receive a Lander t-shirt and beanie for participating. Lander will be providing towels for their use, and there will be heated areas inside the pool house where they can dry off following the event.

The entire campus is invited to come out and watch the President and those students jump into Lander's new pool for the very first time. There will be music, games, refreshments and fire pits in the plaza area next to the pool.

It will be a fun way to not only celebrate meeting our Polar Plunge Challenge scholarship goal, but also inaugurate the university's new outdoor pool. Link to the student registration form: <https://lander.presence.io/form/polar-plunge-participant-registration>

Where Are They Now

Lander Honors College

Ivey Gibbs

Continued from page 3 made me leave England before I completed my program, I finished my placement in the Archives at Magnolia Plantation and Gardens. After more than 100 hours I was hired as a House Guide in March of 2021.

Three years later I am now the Operations Manager!

I am grateful to call the historic gardens at Magnolia my office and couldn't imagine myself in a different place! It's difficult to think of myself in my current role without the Honors College, my study abroad at Winchester, and my semester with the Washington Semester Program!"

Strongest Bearcat Competition

By Tyrinn Moton

Lander university will host its annual Strongest Bearcat competition on February 5. The meet will consist of three events: squatting, bench press, and deadlifting.

Mattie Constance, president of Lander's powerlifting club and a judge of this year's competition, said, "You get three attempts each." Constance also confirmed, "In the end...we use a thing called DOTS to calculate score. It factors in gender, bodyweight, and total weight lifted." The scores are then compared to determine the male and female winners.

The winners are announced at the end of the competition.

Campus Rec officially runs Strongest Bearcat, but over time, the powerlifting club has taken a larger role in making sure the event runs smoothly. Constance commented



that the club members "help with the set up and guide the event."

For Constance, the Strongest Bearcat is about "building that community of lifting...and trying to help introduce the concept of the gym to

people...not only to the ones that are competing, but to the people coming to watch."

The event will be held in the Cultural Center Auditorium at 6 p.m., and it is open to the public.

Media and Communication Alumni Panel

The Department of Media and Communication at Lander University invites the community to a panel discussion with some of its successful recent alumni. The panel will lead a question-and-answer session with students, faculty, staff and members of the public Thursday, Feb. 22, at 3:30 p.m. in the Marion P. Carnell Learning Center, LC 300. This event is free to the community.

Media and Communication Alumni Panel	
Date:	Thursday, Feb. 22
Time:	3:30 - 5 p.m.
Location:	Carnell Learning Center, LC 300

The event will feature the following alumni:

- Jessica Riley, account manager at Riggs Partners, a marketing consultancy in Columbia, South Carolina.
- Brian Sherrod, CBS News Colorado's "First Alert" traffic tracker in Denver, Colorado.
- Ashley Ferry (a.k.a. Brooke Taylor), radio personality for iHeartCountry and lifestyle influencer.
- Ryan Wiley, entertainment leader for Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom and recent recipient of the Walt Disney Legacy Award.
- Miya Payton, anchor and reporter for ABC Columbia News.

"We are excited to welcome these Media and Communication alumni back to campus to share their success stories," said Dr. Robert Stevenson, professor of media and communication and moderator for the upcoming panel. "This event is perfect for our current students, undeclared students who may be considering the major, or prospective students in our community interested in earning their degree at Lander University."

Please visit www.lander.edu/events for updates and to confirm event times and venues. For questions, please contact the College of Arts and Humanities at 864-388-8323. See Media and Communications Alumni Panelists on page 13. To make a gift to the College of Arts and Humanities, please visit giving.lander.edu/give/CoAH.

14th Annual Lander University Short-film Competition

You are invited to participate in Lander University's annual 5-minute short film competition.

The Kickoff workshop will be held at 4 pm on March 12, 2024.
There will be three divisions: High School, College and Open.

At the required kickoff workshop, there will be a short discussion on film making, and students will receive important directions. Students will have 7 days to complete their film.

The deadline to turn in short films is 5 p.m. March 20, 2024.

Winners in the high school division, college division and open division will be announced at the
14th Annual Lander Film Festival on March 30, 2024.

Prizes for each division are as follows:

First place: \$200, Second place: \$100, Third place: \$50

IMPORTANT: If you plan to participate in the short-film competition, please reserve your spot. Just email Lander University Film Festival Chairman Dr. Robert Stevenson: rstevenson@lander.edu



Exercise is Medicine Initiative at Lander

Lander University is recognized by the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) as one of the colleges/universities in the United States that has implemented the Exercise is Medicine On Campus (EIM-OC) program. The EIM global initiative was designed to make physical activity assessment and promotion a standard in clinical care, connecting health care with evidence-based physical activity resources for people everywhere and of all abilities. EIM encourages physicians and other health-care providers to include physical activity when designing treatment plans and to refer patients to evidence-based exercise programs and qualified exercise professionals.

The Department of Physical Education and Exercise Science

(PEES) has partnered with the Wellness Center to implement the EIM-OC initiative at Lander University. Students, faculty, and staff can reach out to the Wellness Center to receive information about the importance of physical activity and counseling from qualified health and fitness professionals from the PEES department. The PEES Club (student organization) will also conduct campus events promoting physical activity, education sessions on nutrition and risk factors

for the development of heart disease, and other fun activities to promote physical activity.

If you would like receive counseling from a qualified health and fitness professional, please contact Dr. Ferreira (dferreira@lander.edu) or Dr. Lynch (blynch@lander.edu).

Exercise is Medicine On Campus



If you think a master's degree might be in your future, now is the perfect time to apply for admission into one of Lander's 10 master's programs. With programs in Art, Business, Education, Emergency Management, Exercise Science, and Nursing, we have options for everyone. If you have questions, reach out to us at graduateoffice@lander.edu. It is always free to apply at www.lander.edu/apply, and we require no GMAT or GRE scores.

Bear Necessities Food Pantry addresses food insecurity, more



The Bear Necessities Food Pantry is available for all students at Lander University on Wednesdays 3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. and Thursdays 10 a.m. – 1p.m in Lide 325. Students are encouraged to use the food pantry to reduce their shopping cost throughout the week. All items are completely free, the only requirement is a valid Lander University student ID.

The Bear Necessities Food Pantry offers a range of different items such as food options, toiletries, and professional clothing. In a recent survey, 52% of Lander students met at least one indicator of food insecurity in the past year. We want students to have support during a high-potential, low-income period of their lives. The Bear Necessities Food Pantry is dedicated to being a welcoming and comfortable environment for all students.

Join us in the fun and excitement! During different parts of the semester, we offer games including “guess what’s in the can?” and a pumpkin rubber band explosion. Students can visit the food pantry to participate in the games and submit their guess. The student with the most accurate answer is selected to win a gift card they can use to lower the price of their grocery bill. We hope to see you at the food pantry enjoying the entertaining games this spring.

This past semester we have started a Student Needs Student Group. All students are invited to join and help in supporting the needs of the student body. Members of the student group have participated in the senate vs. senate faculty and staff food drive, volunteering at The Bear Necessities Food Pantry, and planning for the Music for Meals event this spring. If you have an interest in joining the student group or any questions for the food pantry, please email landerbearnecessities@lander.edu. Stay up to date with The Bear Necessities by following our Instagram [@landerbearnecessities](https://www.instagram.com/landerbearnecessities) and Facebook page [@Bear Necessities Food Pantry](https://www.facebook.com/BearNecessitiesFoodPantry).

Homecoming Week 2024

"Celebrating the Spirit of the New Millennium"

Get ready to travel back in time to the early 2000s for Lander University's Homecoming Week 2024, "Celebrating the Spirit of the New Millennium." Whether you're a current student or one of our many thousands of Lander alumni, this is an opportunity to make memories that will last a lifetime! This week-long extravaganza will be filled with retro-themed activities and competitions, transporting you to an unforgettable era of pop culture, iconic fashion trends and great music. From Y2K excitement, to the rise of boy bands and girl power, this Homecoming promises a nostalgic journey like no other.

Grab your flip phones and low-rise jeans because Bearcat Country is taking it back to the early 2000s in the most epic way possible!

Monday, February 5

Service Project Begins

All Week

Teams participating in Homecoming will have the opportunity to gain additional points by donating jackets, blankets, etc. to this year's service project for Connie Maxwell. The service project will run from Monday, Feb. 5 at 5 pm through Thursday, Feb. 8 ending at 5 pm.

Banner Competition

Grier Student Center Commons 5 pm.

Teams will show off their creativity by making a banner that shows Lander spirit! Banners will be displayed in the Commons all week!

Strongest Bearcat

Abney CC Auditorium 6:00 p.m.

Come out and support your fellow Bearcats during the "Strongest Bearcat" Powerlifting Competition. The meet will allow each participant three attempts at the Squat, Bench Press, and Deadlift combined. To participate in the competition, sign up on the #LURec app. All experience levels are welcome to participate! Join us as we determine the strongest male and female Bearcat. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 6

Movie Showing "Legally Blonde"

Abney Cultural Center Auditorium | 10:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 3:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 8:00 p.m.

Your voice was heard, and the winning Early 2000's movie from the movie bracket on @lu_studentlife was "Legally Blonde". It will be showing every 2.5 hours starting at 10:00 a.m.

Volleyball Tournament

PEES Gym | 6:00 p.m.

Get ready to spike, set, and serve at our thrilling Homecoming Volleyball Tournament! Join us for an action-packed evening of friendly competition as participating teams compete in a bracket system to determine the blue and gold division volleyball winner.

Athletics Events

Softball vs. Coker: Doug Spears Field | 2:00 p.m. & 4:00 p.m.

Men's Lacross vs. Coker: Van Taylor Stadium | 4:00 p.m.

Wrestling vs. Montevallo: Finis Horne Arena | 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 7

Trivia

PEES 224 | 4:00 p.m.

Challenge your wits and embrace the thrill of knowledge at our Early 2000s Trivia event! Gather your team for an afternoon of brain-teasing questions, friendly competition, and the chance to claim the title of trivia champion. Event is open to everyone. Teams competing in Homecoming must be marked for participation.

Spirit Night

Finis Horne Arena

Women's Basketball vs. USC Beaufort – 5:30 p.m.

Men's Basketball vs. USC Beaufort – 7:30 p.m.

Dribble, shoot, and slam-dunk your way into an electrifying evening of basketball action at our Spirit Night Basketball Event!

Thursday, February 8

LU Y2K Talent Showcase

Finis Horne Arena | 9:00 p.m.

Prepare to be AMAZED as our Showcase event unveils a mesmerizing array of local talent from our participating homecoming teams, in a night that promises to leave you in awe of the extraordinary skills within our community.

*Required Dress Rehearsal will be Sunday, Feb. 4, in the PEES Gym.

HOMECOMING WEEKEND

Friday, February 9

Finish the Lyric

Bearcat Lounge | 2:00 p.m.

Unleash your inner lyricist at our "Finish the Lyric" event, where music and competition collide! Test your knowledge of popular songs as you race against the clock to complete the lyrics to your favorite Early 2000s tunes. It's a musical showdown like no other, where quick thinking and lyrical prowess take center stage for a night of entertainment and fun.

Bearcat Burn Party

Centennial Hall Lawn & Fire Pit | 5:00 p.m.

Join us for a bearcat burn party that's all about

good times and great company! Get ready to enjoy live music, warm up by the bonfire, participate in early 2000s inspired DIYs, and a whole lot of fun as we come together to celebrate our community and make lasting memories.

Athletics Events

Baseball vs. Lincoln Memorial: Dolny Stadium | 6:00 p.m.

Wrestling vs. King University: King, Finis Horne Arena | 7 p.m.

Saturday, February 10

Tailgating

Front Lawn | 10:00 a.m.

Please see the Tailgating tab for information and rules. Information can also be found in the Homecoming Packet.

Get ready to rev up the school spirit at our Homecoming Tailgate Event! Join us for an unforgettable tailgate filled with lively music, and the company of fellow alumni, students, and fans. Whether you're a die-hard sports enthusiast or just here for the good vibes, our tailgate is the place to be. Decked out in your school colors and surrounded by the electrifying atmosphere, you'll experience the true essence of Homecoming as we come together to cheer on our men's and women's basketball teams.

Homecoming Basketball Games

Finis Horne Arena

Women's Basketball vs. Clayton State – 1:30 p.m.

Men's Basketball vs. Clayton State – 3:30 p.m.

Come out to support our women's and men's basketball game as they go against Clayton State and find out who will be crowned the next Homecoming King & Queen.

The King will be announced at halftime of the Women's Basketball game and the Queen will be crowned at halftime of the Men's Basketball game.

Stick around after the game to find out who gets to take home the title as our Homecoming Winner for our Blue and Gold Divisions!

Black History Exhibit Comes To Lander

Lander will be host to The Homage Exhibit - Traveling Black History Exhibit. The exhibit will be located in Grier Student Center Commons from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on February 26.

Focusing on African-American history and culture, the exhibit features over 650 select items from the private collection of Nia and Morris McAdoo.

The Homage Exhibit opens the door to the African-American experience in the United States from the time of Slavery to the election of Barack Obama. This unique curator-led experience gives you a behind-the-scenes glimpse of how Homage was designed and created.

Each artifact represents an icon, cultural phenomenon, or pivotal historical moment and accompanies works created by artists and creatives.

Highlights of the collection draw attention to key figures such as Booker T. Washington, Shirley Chisholm, Frederick Douglas, and various artifacts from moments in the civil rights movement.




**THIRD ANNUAL
LANDER BUSINESS LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM**

February 8, 2024
Keynote Speaker
9:30 am CC Auditorium

Jennifer Kushell

Author of the New York Times Bestseller *Secrets of the Young & Successful: How to Get Everything You Want Without Waiting a Lifetime*

Jen has been called the "Career Doctor" by Cosmopolitan and a "guru" by US News and World Report.

2024 Symposium Theme
The Positive Societal Impact of Career-Ready Graduates

Our graduates are Ready, Relevant, and Resourceful!



No. 2 Ranked Wrestling's 2nd Consecutive Shut Out

The second-ranked Lander Wrestling team earned their second consecutive shutout over a conference opponent as they took down the Emory and Henry Wasps, 45-0, on Thursday evening at the King Center.

The Bearcats improved to 11-2 and a perfect 6-0 in Conference Carolinas action while the Wasps dropped to 1-11 and 0-7 in conference play.

Lander picked up four forfeit wins at 141, 149, 184, and 197 to give them 24 team points. There was also a double forfeit at 165 where neither team was awarded points.

Oren Decker got the match started with a high-scoring 23-18 decision that saw eight takedowns and three reversals to give Lander a 3-0 lead. Kaden Fisher then followed that up with a pin in 1:11. The two forfeits brought the score to 21-0.

Sammy Gerard picked up a 18-11 decision to make it 24-0, Lander. Ryan Dobbs added a 12-3 major decision to make it 28-0 before another two forfeits make it 40-0.



Expanding For The Future:

Self Regional Benefits From Da Vinci Xi Robotic Surgical System

By Kikker Eppley

There has always been a measured and prudent effort when it comes to the expansion of The Self-Regional Hospital System since its inception in 1951, but the hospital has seen an expansion that has exceeded the expectations of the Greenwood area as of late. Close to two years ago Self-Regional was able to bring in the revolutionary Da Vinci Xi Robotic Surgical System to the hospital system, allowing the doctors to perform surgical procedures that are not possible with just human hands. As Ken Coffey, Executive Director of the Hospital Foundation, states The Da Vinci is “The gold standard for the treatment of prostate disease



Ken Coffey

which effects one in every eight men.” Coffey goes on to state the robot “Has already saved hundreds of people from having to leave Greenwood for that level of care.” The 2.5-million-dollar robot is part of a fundraising campaign called The Equation for Progress, which is led the Hospital Foundation. The Da Vinci is used for many other surgery cases including GYN oncology, gall bladder removal, hernia repairs and other surgical procedures. Like the statistic of men with prostate cancer, breast cancer effects one in every eight women. That is why Self-Regional is planning



Da Vinci Xi Robotic Surgical System

a state-of-the-art, comprehensive breast center for women. This project is also being funded by The Equation for Progress campaign that is also paying for the Da Vinci. Coffey states, “We want to have a program here so that women get all the services they need for breast care right here in Greenwood, as opposed to having to go to Greenville, Columbia, or out of the state.”

Spotlighting The Greenwood Genetic Center

By Brooks Grayson

The Greenwood Genetic Center recently helped launch the Carroll A. Campbell, Jr. Alzheimer’s research initiative by unveiling the BioSpherix Xvivo System. This cutting-edge technology enables the isolation of mitochondria from healthy donor cells to be used in patients with defective energy production in brain cells.

The GGC will be among only a few in the country with this technology. Governor Henry McMaster was on hand at the January 22 event, and stated, “This is the future.”

The Greenwood Genetic Center helps over 5,000 families every year through genetic testing and research. Over 75% of their patients are children whether that be a newborn with birth defects or an adolescent showing developmental delays. Lori Basset, the director of com-

munication said, “One thing about the Greenwood Genetic Center is that we’ve got four divisions: clinics, labs, research, and education. They all collaborate well and work very closely together to achieve our goal, which is the best quality care for patients.”

The center is able to give these kids and their families the answers they can’t find anywhere else through services that all work in conjunction to help diagnose patients. Most of the GGC patients come to the center through referral from their primary doctor, but

they also receive samples for testing from doctors all over the nation. There are five centers across the state, but the facility in Greenwood is where all the testing and research takes place. In addition to the clinic where patients are seen, the center has diagnostic and DNA testing where samples are sent to be analyzed. Through use of new technology, like the NovaSeq 6000, which can sequence many strands of DNA at once, they are able to get answers much sooner.

In addition to clinical and diagnostic services they also work to educate people on genetics, services, treatments and careers in the field for young people. For middle and high school students, they offer a number of opportunities from summer camps to a school bus called the Gene Machine that’s set up like a lab and



students can go in and simulate genetic testing.

For college students, they offer summer internships and provide speakers who come to Lander. Specifically, for those intending to be genetic counseling assistants, the Lander course features a guest speaker and lessons from the center.

Through its mission to provide genetic testing and services, education, and research, the Greenwood Genetic Center has taken great strides in the name of genetics and has helped many families in the process.



Library colleagues present ‘Lander University’ book



Lisa Wiecki and David Mash of Lander University’s Jackson Library led the research for a new book, “Lander University,” being published for Lander’s Sesquicentennial Celebration. Photo by Laura B. Wood

Is it Hollywood? Or Greenwood?

Photographs of beautiful young women dressed in elegant evening gowns and men wearing tuxedos and white dinner jackets to special events portray a time of glamour in the post-World War II era of Lander University.

More reminiscent of the golden age of Hollywood than life at a small Southern college, the images are among more than 150 photographs in a new 130-page book, “Lander University,” which celebrates Lander’s sesquicentennial. Scheduled for release in mid-April, the book is sponsored by The Lander Foundation and published by Arcadia Press, known for its regional and nostalgic publications.

The book represents over six months of dedicated efforts by Lisa Wiecki, director of Library Services at Jackson Library, and her colleague David Mash, associate director of Library Services. They relied on archival photographs from the early years of Williamston Female College, founded in 1872 in Williamston, S.C., and the forerunner of Lander College (now a university), as well as photographs taken by students and faculty. Scrapbooks donated to the University also have been essential to the project.

“Many of the photographs have never been seen before,” said Wiecki. “David and I found that our days, nights and weekends were consumed by this work. We really learned about the student experience from these donated items.”

She is quick to praise the library’s staff for their commitment to the project. “Our staff worked tirelessly with us to identify images and their context. It was a huge team effort, and truly this is the most enjoyable project I’ve ever worked on,” Wiecki said.

Mike Worley, vice president for University Advancement and executive director of The Lander Foundation, said the book project is a perfect fit for the University’s anniversary year.

“This is an opportunity to share wonderful, but forgotten, chapters of our story with alumni, students and the University’s friends and supporters,” he said. “We are proud of the painstaking effort undertaken to make the book a reality, and we are looking forward to seeing it in print.”

“Lander University” depicts the school’s life and history through the middle of the 20th century, although some photographs portray more recent years on campus. “The book gives us an opportunity to look back and see what a special school this is and what a history we have,” Mash said.

Wiecki added, “This book is visual storytelling, but also includes information from our research.”

One of the most surprising findings was that children served as academic mascots, Wiecki said.

“Beginning in the 1920s and continuing through the 1960s, we found that children were selected as mascots for academic, sporting and other events on campus,” she said. “Children were considered ‘good luck charms’ for the groups that they represented.”

Other findings:

- Because of the Rotary Club’s interest in education, students from Cuba and South Korea came to Lander during the 1950’s and were warmly embraced by the campus and the community.
- Freshman and juniors united in a “wedding” to form a symbolic union of the classes.
- The annual May Day celebration on campus was a pop-

ular event, including a Maypole dance and crowning of a beauty queen.

- The University’s first president, Samuel Lander, used the image of the mineral spring near the Williamston Female College to form a symbol of health and well-being, including a “spring of knowledge” essential to education. The school’s earliest publication, *The Naiad*, was named for the Greek mythological nymphs who inhabited springs, lakes and other bodies of fresh water.

A comprehensive newsletter and college catalogue, *The Naiad* carried news from the campus and area.

- Paper diplomas were considered “frivolous” by Samuel Lander. Instead, early graduates of the school were awarded rose-gold pins which they could wear to signify their completion of a college education.

- In the 1920s, the college sponsored an opportunity school with the S.C. Department of Education to give young women, many of whom worked on farms and in the area’s textile mills, an opportunity to enhance their reading, writing and arithmetic skills.

Readers will find the book organized according to Lander’s outline of the different streams of learning – mental, aesthetic, physical and social -- and not by chronological order, Mash said.

“The images in each chapter reflect a specific stream of learning,” he said. “We noticed water themes throughout the school’s early history.”

The presidency of Dr. Boyce M. Grier, 1948 – 66, is highlighted by a focus on student life and the beauty of the era. “Dr. Grier had a keen intuition about the importance of public image,” Wiecki said. “The ‘social stream’ section of the book depicts Dr. Grier’s years at Lander. An energy and excitement were ignited on this campus when he arrived.”

In fact, it was during Grier’s tenure that one Lander student, Miriam Stevenson of Winnsboro, became internationally recognized for her beauty. In the early 1950s, Stevenson was crowned Miss Lander, Miss Greenwood, Miss South Carolina and then Miss South Carolina USA, Miss USA, and ultimately Miss Universe.

“The school was glamorous,” Wiecki said. “It looked like so much fun. Student life seemed to blossom during Dr. Grier’s years at Lander.”

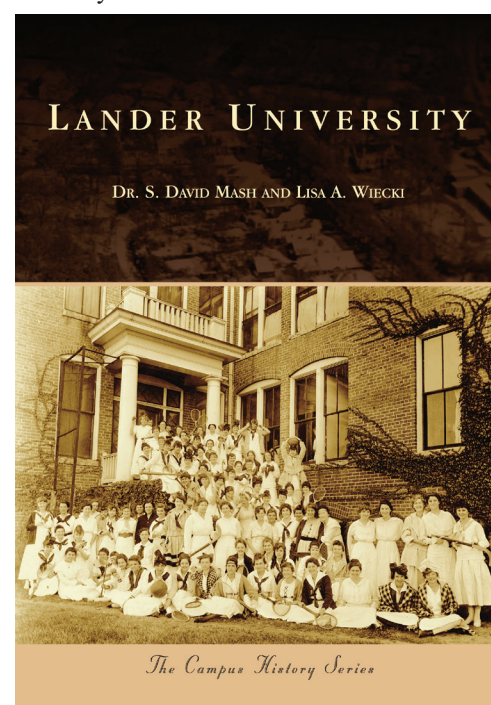
The team found “so many fascinating vignettes” to Lander. “The University has a strong cultural and economic impact on the Greenwood community,” Mash said. “I’m not sure many people today understand how strong that impact has been over the years.”

The people of Greenwood always have been enthusiastic supporters of Lander and were eager to become the home of the college when it was seeking to relocate from Williamston in 1904. “The town acquired the property for the school. They were ‘all in’ when it came to bringing the college to Greenwood,” Mash said. “It was a cooperative effort at every level.”

The nostalgia of “Lander University” highlights that the University’s story isn’t told solely in the passage of years. The story has been written by the people who came to Lander in pursuit of an education.

“The people who attended and those who graduated are part of the lineage of Lander,” Mash said.

That lineage, meticulously researched by library colleagues, will continue through a new generation of Lander University students and alumni.



Black History:

Dr. Benjamin Mays: Greenwood Native, Mentor To Dr. Martin Luther King

By Amani Steward

A theologian, minister, accomplished author, and principle founder of the Civil Rights movement sprouted from the small neighborhood of Epworth in Greenwood, SC. Dr. Benjamin Elijah Mays is recognized by Christopher Thomas, the director of the Benjamin E. Mays Historical Preservation Site in Greenwood, as “one of the most significant figures of the 20th century.”

Dr. Mays, the youngest of eight children by former slaves, early on developed the idea of Black self-determination. Mays fantasized about higher education, stated Thomas. And Mays’ driving theme as a young man was to “sit in a classroom side-by-side with white students and to prove he was as mentally capable as they were.”

Dr. Mays’ impact expands over four decades including his tenure



as president for Morehouse College from 1940 to 1967, Dean of the School of Religion at Howard University, and advisor for three presidents: Kennedy, Johnson, and Carter.

Morehouse College is where

Dr. Mays met a young student named Martin Luther King, Jr. Both men would discuss theological, religious ideas and the advancement of Black people.

Dr. King himself referred to Dr. Benjamin Mays as a “spiritual mentor” and often recognized Dr. Mays as a significant influential figure in his life.

According to Bates Magazine, the publication at Bates College in which Mays graduated with honors in 1920, Coretta Scott King said, “From the earliest days of the Struggle, until my husband’s last rites on the campus of Martin’s beloved Morehouse, Dr. Mays was at our side.” Mrs. King further said, “I make bold to state that Dr. Mays is without a contemporary peer in the inspiration and motivation that he has given to thousands of young blacks, men in particular, in their

quest for emancipation from the myths of racism.”

History 350: Civil Rights and the Legacy of Benjamin Mays is a course offered at Lander University which studies the life and accomplishments of Dr. Benjamin E. Mays.

Senior history major Lillian Strawn, currently enrolled in the course, said, “One of the biggest points of discussion in Hist 350 so far has been the lack of education and awareness about Dr. Mays and his accomplishments. Throughout this semester, we will be sharing the impact and legacy of Dr. Benjamin Mays with many...”

The Benjamin E. Mays Historical Preservation Site celebrates its 13th anniversary on April 1. Culturally rich events are offered to the public, and Thomas states its goal is to “beat the drum of Dr. Mays” through spreading awareness. Thomas hopes people gain the belief that “nothing is impossible” after visiting.

Lander University Minorities on the Move

By Kiara Wright

Lander student organization, Minorities on the Move (MOMs) has a proud history of helping out with Black History Month on Lander’s campus. According to MOMs president, senior business major Shelly Nevins, MOMs has performed for Black History Month in the past. In addition to performing as a gospel choir, “We were also one of the leading groups who participated in the remembrance walk.”

“We stand with our people.” Nevins stated, “We think that Black History Month is a beautiful opportunity to remember.”

Nevins has served as president of Minorities on the Move for the past three years. “I joined MOMs when I was a sophomore,” said Nevins, “and since then, the organization has taught me a lot about giving back to my community.”

“We like to give back to our community, and we like to share the Gospel to everyone through song,” Nevins stated. “We participate at the Soup Kitchen here in Greenwood, and we’ve also participated in toiletry drives and coat drives.”

As far as who can join the organization, everyone is welcome. All religions are invited.

Nevins states that members are encouraged to submit music for upcoming events, and they are allowed to teach the music if willing. “We like to have a little bit of diversity in the choir,” said Nevins.

“You don’t have to sing to be a member; you can also provide leadership.”

As far as the impact Minorities on the Move has on Lander’s campus, Nevins explained how their concerts have had large turnouts. “Last Spring, we had a great turnout. A lot of people came to

hear us sing.”

Members of MOMs are proud to be a gospel choir.

“We go against the grain by continuing to be who we are,” Nevins stated. “MOMs is strength to me.” “They’ve helped me to grow so much as a person. They’ve helped

me stay strong.”

“I always give the quote of Jeremiah 29:1, regardless of what you have in life, whether it is a success or a setback, the plans that are already made for your life are set in stone.” Nevins concluded, “So... trust the process.”



Lander Alum:

Senator Billy Garrett



By Ben Kellum

Sen. Billy Garrett has been selected as a member of the Top 100 Criminal Defense Lawyers, Top 100 Trial Lawyers, and America’s Most Honored 5% of Professionals. Since he was elected as a state senator in November 2020, Garrett has been a part of hundreds of bills, has helped pass numerous bills, and helped bring \$2 billion in jobs to South Carolina via the “Scout Program.” Garrett is the only Lander University alumnus in the General Assembly and is “very grateful” for his time at Lander, as it “pushed him to get to where he is today.”

Garrett’s family moved to Greenwood when he was 12, where he began working at a local grocery store to help support his family during the move. Over the course of the next 10 years, Garrett found himself becoming more and more fond of small businesses, particularly grocery stores. Later, Garrett became part of the Piggly Wiggly Corporation and devoted much of his time “working up the ranks with the company.” After graduating high school, Garrett furthered his education at Lander where he pursued a degree in history with a minor in political science. Garrett worked tirelessly to provide for his family, afford schooling, and prove his worth to Piggly Wiggly.

At this point in time, Garrett was happily married to his wife, Denise, who was expecting their first child. When he approached Piggly Wiggly to ask about health insurance for his spouse, the company informed Garrett that it had “changed insurance, and his child’s birth was no longer covered.” Being that Garrett had spent a majority of the past decade working tirelessly for Piggly Wiggly, he was distraught that he and his wife would not be covered. This sparked Garrett to pursue law school and pursue becoming a lawyer. Garrett became top in his law school class for both criminal and domestic relations. After law school, Garrett returned to Greenwood and eventually opened his own practice, where he practiced law for over 40 years, leading to his current role as senator. When asked for some words of wisdom for recent graduates who are looking to begin a career, Garrett replied, “Know what you want to do and follow it. Just don’t limit yourself to one thing.”

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

ALUMNI PANEL

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2024
3:30 PM TO 5 PM IN LC 300

 JESSICA RILEY ACCOUNT MANAGER AT RIGGS PARTNERS IN COLUMBIA, SC	 BRIAN SHERROD CBS NEWS COLORADO'S FIRST ALERT TRAFFIC TRACKER IN DENVER, COLORADO	 ASHLEY FERRY A RADIO HOST FOR IHEARTCOUNTRY AND LIFESTYLE INFLUENCER	 RYAN WILEY ENTERTAINMENT LEADER AT MAGIC KINGDOM AND IS A RECIPIENT OF THE WALT DISNEY LEGACY AWARD	 MIYA PAYTON ANCHOR AND REPORTER AT ABC COLUMBIA NEWS IN COLUMBIA, SC
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These featured alumni from Lander University will be discussing their experiences in the media and communications field and letting you know how Lander can help you achieve your goals.

THE COMMUNITY IS INVITED

For more information, contact [Dr. Robert Stevenson](mailto:Dr.RobertStevenson@lander.edu), Media and Communications Professor at rstevenson@lander.edu

Lander Campus Recreation

By Hannah Lovett

Lander’s Campus Recreation (LURec) is an untapped resource for many students. LU-Rec, offers a variety of opportunities including intramural sports, group exercises, access to facilities and off-campus trips. They will also oversee the new outdoor pool facility.

Hannah McQueen, director of campus recreation and intramurals, said she wants students to know more about the affordable outdoor adventures offered during this semester. There is a Greenville Swamp Rabbits hockey game offered through LURec for only \$10. This includes transportation to Greenville as well as admission to the game. There is also a whitewater rafting trip in the spring and a ski trip to West Virginia in the winter for a fraction of the market price.

LURec also hosts events throughout the year such as the Strongest Bearcat Competition hosted during Homecoming Week. The three weightlifting exercises featured in this competition are bench, squat, and deadlift. Whichever participant can lift the most for their body weight will be announced as the strongest Bearcat. This event is open to all Lander students and is on Monday, February 5th at 6 p.m. in the Cultural Center Auditorium.

Furthermore, students can check out sports equipment for free, work out in the campus gym, or learn a new skill during the group exercises.



Q&A ■ What Does Black History Month Mean To You?

By Sara Anglin



Juju Johnson, Junior Spanish Major
“For me, Black History Month is just the celebration of African Americans within that whole month, and just our history and overcoming certain obstacles in the way.”



Destiny Cockrell, Senior Humanities Major
“Black History Month for me is a month where I, as a non-black person, can reflect on the injustices that African American people have experienced.”



Tyrinn Moton Junior Mathematics - Dual Engineering Major
BHM means a lot to me because America does not adequately teach the importance of an entire community of people that has created almost all aspects of America today. I'm pleased to have at the very least one month to recognize the rich history and importance of my people and ancestors. I can only hope that we will continue the work of all those who deserve to be celebrated in February, and to the point where we won't even need to have just one month to recognize the work of my marginalized people.



Alex Moreno, Senior Media and Communications Major
“Black History Month is where we acknowledge the achievements that African Americans have accomplished and learn about the hardship they've had through the years.”



Palak Patel, Sophomore Healthcare Management Major
“Black History Month to me is a time that we specifically honor everybody that is African American and highlight any tough parts of their and their ancestors' lives. We take the time to pause and acknowledge their hardships, their struggles, and how far they've come.”



Sanaa Skeete, Sophomore Graphic Design Major
“Black History Month to me is the importance it is to be black especially in America and having a month dedicated to my race and ethnicity means a lot and makes me feel seen.”

Lander Honors College Student Interns At The OAS

By Abigail Buckingham

The moment that Lander University student Citlali Avila-Cabrera landed at Washington's Reagan National Airport as part of Lander's Honor College, she said she knew she would return. Avila-Cabrera, along with other Honors College students, were participating in a Gateway trip, which is a required part of Lander's Honors College curriculum that students are required to participate in. The trip is part of Lander's Honors Travel Lab class.

After that all-too-short weekend was over, Avila-Cabrera began preparing to return. Together with Honors College professors Dr. Lillian Crayton and Dr. Sean Barnette, she developed a plan to do her required Break Away trip in Washington, D.C. during the fall of 2022.

Avila-Cabrera returned to D.C. through the South Carolina Washington Semester Program, a highly selective program only offered to Honors Students in the state. Through this program, Avila-Cabrera interned at the Organization of American States (OAS) in the Department of Effective Public Management.

She said she quickly found herself in a position where she was given a large amount of independence and trust within the OAS. She found this to be a new and incred-

ably pivotal experience. In discussing the impact of this experience and the lessons learned, Avila-Cabrera emphasized that the greatest take-away was confidence.

She explained further, "I was doing a lot of



Lander Honors College Student Citlali Avila-Cabrera

independent work. I would be handed this big, important assignment and whatever work I pro-

duced, the OAS would just roll with it," which she described as absolutely terrifying.

Despite the initial fear, Avila-Cabrera quickly realized that in order to succeed, she had to develop confidence in herself and the work she produced, which she quickly did, cementing herself as an incredibly valuable asset to the OAS. She credits this accomplishment to her time at Lander and the excellence with which her classes and professors prepared her.

Avila-Cabrera went on to explain, "When you're in your undergraduate classes, you don't realize how much you're learning until you actually have the opportunity to apply it. While at the OAS, I realized that everything I had done at Lander was being put to use right now."

Going forward, Avila-Cabrera intends to return to D.C. after graduation, and take a gap year, with plans to work for an inter-governmental organization or government agency, particularly one that defends human rights. Eventually, she hopes to attend law school, focusing on international law.

Her dream job is working for the European Union, the United Nations, or OAS, the organization that inspired her passion. And through the excellence of the Lander University Honors College and an intense dedication to her goals, Avila-Cabrera is self-assured and confident that these dreams will become reality.

Lander's Music Department Strikes The Right Chord



By Ty Turner

In a celebration of musical talent, Lander University's lively campus has become the stage for a series of memorable concerts and ensemble performances.

From increasing concert attendance in the past year, the university's music department has been striking the right chords, and captivating audiences with their exceptional skill and passion.

The performances are designed to cater to the diverse taste of both students and the larger community. The concerts and ensembles have not only provided a platform for students to display their musical talent, but have also strengthened a sense of community and appreciation for arts.

One change initiated last fall is the performance times. Dean of Arts and Humanities,

Under the guidance of accomplished faculty members, Lander University's musical concerts and ensembles have showcased a wide range of musical genres from individual performances to choral groups, jazz band, wind ensemble, strings, and more.

Dr. Lucas McMillan, highlighted the positive impact of changing the concert time. He said, "Everybody should know that we have changed the usual time for our music concerts from 8 p.m. to 7 p.m."

As a result, "Concert attendance has gone up, and I think people are happy about that change."

McMillan added, "We have all different kinds of concerts, some featuring individual students and others featuring our ensembles: two choral groups, a jazz band, wind ensemble, strings chamber group, piano ensemble, pep band, and a new woodwind ensemble. Throughout the spring semester, we've got all sorts of concerts."

As the university continues to prioritize the arts, these musical concerts express Lander's commitment to promoting creativity and excellence in its students.

The ensembles, absolutely talented musicians, are gaining recognition for their outstanding performances, contributing to the University's reputation as a place for artistic expression and musical innovation.

The spring season started off with the Student Honors Recital on January 30.

XLR Lander Radio's Upcoming Events

By Tristan Barnes

XLR Lander University Radio, is currently in preparation for the spring semester of events.

On January 11, the XLR team, under the guidance of XLR General Manager Christoph Kresse, met to discuss their plans and goals for the next few months. Sara "Knives" Anglin, XLR's on-air manager and host of Early Evening Emo, provided the following event list.

Firstly, keep an eye out for XLR tables set up outside and within the Cultural Center commons. There are several days throughout the semester in which XLR hosts will be in the plaza in order to promote their shows. They will also likely be handing out stickers and other merchandise. The XLR hosts will be happy to answer any questions about XLR!

On Valentine's Day, many team members of XLR's radio shows and podcasts will be in the Cultural Center. From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Expect to see the table set up with decorations, stickers, and other XLR merchandise.

Many radio hosts will also have Valentine's Day specials, so be sure

to ask them when to tune in for their shows.

On February 15, XLR members Allyson Jackson and Paris Briggs will be hosting a Black History Month special. They will be on air at 6 p.m. that day. Jackson said, "I am hosting this to celebrate my roots. The show will include a mix of African American music spanning from the 70s to the present time. We will also have discussions on the evolution of black history and the significance of African American culture."

On February 24, some XLR team members will be travelling to Asheville to attend a Blonde Redhead's concert and interview band members. Expect to hear more about the concert itself and more on Erynn Price's show, Grrrls To The Front.

There will be additional events in the following months as well. Keep tuned in to XLR Lander Radio's Instagram, @officialxlrlanderradio, to stay up to date.

To listen to the on-air hosts, tune in on the website, xlrlanderradio.com, or download the XLR Lander Radio mobile app.



"The Drop" Construction Affecting Classrooms



(Photo by Elizabeth Brooker)

By Elizabeth Brooker

Lander University is excited to open a new dining experience this semester called The Drop. The Drop will provide multiple options for students to enjoy with maximum convenience. Students will pay from apps on their mobile devices or the walk-up kiosk.

But what is not convenient to the faculty, staff, and students on the lower level of the Learning Center is the construction of The Drop.

Construction of The Drop has required many students, staff, and faculty to relocate their classrooms due to the wiring and ventilation being added to the new restaurant.

This inconvenience has caused many faculty and staff members to make the arduous decision to either temporarily make their classes completely virtual or hybrid or relocate to different classrooms.

"We're excited about this new addition to our campus, but having new additions comes with bumps, and everyone has to adjust to these changes, stated Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities Dr. Lucas McMillan.

Regarding the affected faculty who are committed to continuing to use specific computer programs and equipment, McMillan said, "The outcome of this inconvenience is that everyone is adapting to these adjustments, especially our professors, who, instead of being frustrated with these changes, are committed to ensuring our students continue to receive the best preparation."

LU Men's Basketball Changes Culture, Earns National Ranking



(Photo by Landon King)

By Landon King

Following their defeat in last year's NCAA Tournament, the Lander Bearcats men's basketball team knew they had something to prove. That motivating loss came against the Lincoln Memorial Railsplitters, Lander head coach Omar Wattad's first stop before taking the lead of the Bearcats. It was at this moment that Wattad and the Bearcats put their heads down and got to work.

"We focused on getting better defensively at the point of attack," said Wattad. "Touching the paint and drawing more fouls was another major focal point for us."

As of January 26, the Bearcats are 14-3 overall with a 6-1 record in Peach Belt Conference play, earning them the no. 11 ranking in the latest National Association of Basketball Coach's poll, the highest in program history. With recent wins over Georgia College, who was ranked no. 25 in the NABC poll earlier in the season, as well as conference foe and fifth-ranked North Georgia, that ranking is set to rise. According to Wattad, the versatility and depth of his squad are what makes them so dangerous.

"People talk about 'next man up' all the time, but we can actually live that," said Wattad. "It's a headache sometimes trying to get the right rotations, but that's a good problem to have."

A good problem indeed, as the Bearcats currently have seven players averaging at least eight points per game. Three of those players include Inady Legiste, Phillip Burwell, and Torrin Andrews, who were all acquired via the transfer portal last season.

The Bearcats are 14-3 overall with a 6-1 record in Peach Belt Conference play, earning them the no. 11 ranking in the latest National Association of Basketball Coach's poll, the highest in program history.

Legiste, the 6-foot-7 forward, was selected to the South Atlantic Conference all-conference team last season at Tusculum, and currently leads the Bearcats in points per game with 13.3 and rebounds per game with 6.1. Burwell was also an all-conference player last season as well while playing for PBC rival Georgia Southwestern State. Andrews, the pickup out of the JUCO circuit, has been a sharpshooter for the Bearcats this season, shooting a blistering 47 percent from three point range. To Wattad, the team would not be the same without those additions.

"They're skilled, locked-in and competitive. They fit right in," said Wattad. "And the returners accepting them has been vital as well."

The pastures weren't always greener in Greenwood, however. When Wattad first took over the Bearcats, the team was coming off a 7-9, COVID-ridden season, leaving Wattad with a huge task of flipping the culture of the program. He's done just that, leading the Bearcats to their first NCAA Tournament appearance since the 2015-16 season in 2023. According to Wattad, his time under Josh Schertz at Lincoln Memorial, who is now the head coach at Indiana State, has contributed greatly to his success thus far.

"He showed me what building a program looks like," said Wattad. "I've learned so much about the game from that guy."

Looking ahead, the job is nowhere near finished for the Bearcats, with more than 10 conference games remaining on the schedule. If you ask Wattad, however, his team is ready. "We're becoming the hunted, not doing the hunting," said Wattad. "We're as hungry as ever."

Taking Groundskeeping At Lander One Step Further

By Brianna Patterson

Karla Coffey, who works in Grounds Maintenance under the department of Physical Plant for Lander, was chosen by students to be the spokesperson for the groundskeepers. Groundskeepers play an important role in the lives of students and the public no matter who they work for. Whether for offices, businesses, campuses, stores, etc., they are responsible for the outdoor atmosphere that an individual is forced to deal with day to day at their jobs and surrounding areas.

Coffey moved to South Carolina from Maryland in 2015 after attending St. Mary's College of Maryland for 3 semesters. After a couple of odd jobs, she returned to school by enrolling at Lander University in the fall of 2016. She graduated with her bachelor's in environmental science in the fall of 2019. When she arrived in Greenwood, she immersed herself in volunteer work for the City of Greenwood horticulture department. There, she eventually became an employee, and worked part time whilst in school and full time after graduation. She helped design and maintain the Uptown area's flower beds and the City's 42 topiaries for the South Carolina Festival of Flowers.

Since January of 2021, Coffey along with the 14 members of the Campus Grounds Maintenance department have been maintaining and helping design the 350+ acres of campus. The grounds crew is responsible for all of the vegetation on campus, and Coffey specializes in ornamental floral design and maintenance. You may see the grounds crew riding around in golfcarts wearing their signature high visibility neon yellow, but you'll more often hear them mowing, weed-eating, and blowing leaves. She and her coworkers provide organic mosquito control during the warmer seasons so students can remain outside comfortably, as well. Any form of sitting water can hatch thousands of mosquito eggs. A female mosquito can lay up to 300 eggs per clutch and only needs about a bottle cap sized amount of water to do so. A single bottle cap can breed thousands of mosquitos over the course of a few months. Therefore, she implores us to help prevent litter because water may be collected and heighten the mosquito population. The grounds crew and broader Physical Plant department is an oft unseen entity that

keeps the campus alive. Coffey even says "I'm just this," gesturing with her fingers pinched, "to a much bigger picture."

The main goal of the grounds crew is to maintain a safe environment for Students, Faculty and Staff, but Coffey takes it one step further, stating that she hopes to "provide an enriching student experience and build sustainable habitat for pollinators and wildlife".

Safety of students also includes the "Mental Health Crisis" for Coffey. She believes that it is important to provide the comfort of nature to students, much the way it was provided for her when she was a student. To show the crew cares for the students, she says of every flower,

must learn to "Grow where [they] are planted", and so hopes to make it easier for students by creating a beautiful atmosphere.

Right now, students are offered opportunities to snack on veggies and fruit planted by Coffey and her coworkers. The Grounds Crew always tries to find ways to give back to students. Currently, there are cabbages, collard greens, snap peas, carrots, cauliflower, and broccoli plants dotted in flower beds around campus. On its way this spring are strawberries, blueberries, tomatoes, peppers, peaches, herbs, and more.

Karla stated that the Crew has been setting up some recent and long-term goals for campus.

Of course, one goal is to "Always make it better than the year before," says Coffey, and so they are working hard to make some great changes! They plan to add more flowers and veggies this coming spring and summer. The area under the bridge between Centennial Hall and the Cultural Center, which is a water retention pond and drain way, will be planted with native wildflowers to create a picturesque habitat for native wildlife. Coffey said she hopes to establish a labeling system for the plant material in key areas as well as obtain more educational signage to let students know what plants are edible and to just "fuel student's curiosity". They also want to add more flowers around faculty and staff offices to brighten their views.

The preceding goals are just the beginning of the massive list of dreams Coffey has for the campus, and world. She aims to help solve global issues like habitat loss, pollution, loneliness, food insecurity, and other things that are killing our planet, through sustainable gardening.

Lander's Campus is where

she says she is making her start. Another step she plans to take is by creating her own Horticulture club at Lander University. Coffey also advised for students to "never eat plant material you're not 100% sure is edible!" and that students are more than welcome to email her directly with plant questions, inquiry for a Lander Garden Club, or even to just say hello: kc Coffey@lander.edu



Karla Coffey helps maintain 350 acres of Lander campus grounds

"This is like our love letter of encouragement to them". She wants each individual to feel seen and connected. She said she even hopes the flowers and landscape will be so beautiful that "Students will look up from their phones and be present" and, "[She] want[s] them to notice their campus and have pride over it, and feel a sense of belonging."

Coffey said she also believes that students

Lander Calendar of Events February - Continued

Continued from page 12

Feb 14 - Women's Basketball
5:30 - 7:30 PM;
Bearcats @ North Georgia

Feb 14 - Men's Lacrosse
6 - 9 PM; Bearcats @ Emmanuel

Feb 14 - Group X Pilates
6 - 7 PM; Student Life

Feb 14 - Intramural
Indoor Soccer
7 - 10 PM; Student Life

Feb 14 - Men's Basketball
7:30 - 10:30 PM
Bearcats @ North Georgia

Feb 15 - Women's Tennis
2 - 5 PM; Bearcats @ Francis
Marion

Feb 15 - Group X Team Sports
4 - 5 PM; Student Life

Feb 15; Group X Bearcat Fit HIIT
5 - 6 PM; Student Life

Feb 15 - Group X Spin
5 - 6 PM; Student Life

Feb 15 - Intramural - Dodgeball
7 - 10 PM; Student Life

Feb 16 - Softball
All Day;
Bearcat/Fleet Invitational

Feb 16 - Baseball
12 - 7 PM;
Bearcats @ Nova Southeastern

Feb 16 - Men's Tennis
2 - 5 PM; Bearcats @ Newberry

Feb 16 - Intramural -
Spikeball Tournament; 6 - 9 PM;
Student Life

Feb 17 - Softball
All Day;
Bearcat/Fleet Invitational

Feb 17 - Equestrian Team
All Day

Feb 17
Greenville Swamp Rabbits Hockey
Game; All Day; Student Life

Feb 17 - Baseball; 12 - 3 PM;
Bearcats @ Nova Southeastern

Feb 17 - Women's Tennis
1 - 4 PM; Bearcats vs. Mars Hill

Feb 17 - Women's Basketball
1:30 - 3:30 PM
Bearcats @ Georgia College

Feb 17 - Women's Lacrosse
2 - 5 PM; Bearcats vs. Tusculum

Feb 17 - Acrobatics & Tumbling
3 - 6 PM; Tri-Meet

Feb 17 - Men's Basketball
3:30 - 6:30 PM
Bearcats @ Georgia College

Feb 18 - Equestrian Team
All Day

Feb 19 - Group X Team Sports
4 - 5 PM; Student Life

Feb 19 - Group X Spin
5 - 6 PM; Student Life

Feb 19 - Intramural
3v3 Basketball
7 - 10 PM; Student Life

Feb 20 - Men's Tennis
2 - 5 PM;
Bearcats @ Emmanuel

Feb 20 - Group X 15-Minute Abs
2:30 - 2:45 PM; Student Life

Feb 20 - Group X Team Sports
4 - 5 PM; Student Life

Feb 20 - Baseball
5 - 8 PM
Bearcats vs. Southern Wesleyan

Feb 20 - Group X Bearcat Fit SGT
5 - 6:30 PM; Student Life

Feb 20 - Intramural
6v6 Volleyball
7 - 10 PM; Student Life

Feb 21 - Women's Tennis
2 - 5 PM; Bearcats @ Newberry

Feb 21 - Group X Team Sports
4 - 5 PM; Student Life

Feb 21 - Group X Zumba
5 - 6 PM; Student Life

Feb 21 - Group X Spin
5 - 6 PM; Student Life

Feb 21 - Women's Basketball
5:30 - 7:30 PM;
Bearcats vs. Augusta

Feb 21 Group X Pilates
6 - 7 PM; Student Life

Feb 21 - Intramural - Indoor Soccer
7 - 10 PM; Student Life

Feb 21 - Men's Lacrosse
7 - 10 PM; Bearcats @ Limestone

Feb 21 - Karaoke Night
7 - 8:30 PM; Student Life

Feb 21 - Men's Basketball
7:30 - 10:30 PM;
Bearcats vs. Augusta

Feb 22 - Media & Communica-
tions AlumniPanel; LC 300
3:30 - 5 PM; Academics

Feb 22 - Group X Team Sports
4 - 5 PM; Student Life

Feb 22 - Group X Bearcat Fit
HIIT; 5 - 6 PM; Student Life

Feb 22 - Group X Spin
5 - 6 PM; Student Life

Feb 22 - Acrobatics & Tumbling
6 - 9 PM;
Bearcats vs. Coker

Feb 22 - Intramural
Dodgeball
7 - 10 PM; Student Life

Feb 23 - Baseball
11 AM - 2 PM;
Bearcats @ Wingate

Feb 23 - Softball
5 - 8 PM; Bearcats @ Augusta

Feb 24 - Open House
9 AM - 5 PM

Feb 24 - Softball
1 - 6 PM;
Bearcats @ Augusta

Feb 24 - Baseball
1 - 8 PM; Bearcats @ Wingate

Feb 24 - Women's Basketball
1:30 PM - 3:30 AM
Bearcats vs. Columbus State

Feb 24 - Women's Lacrosse
2 - 5 PM;
Bearcats @ Embry-Riddle

Feb 24 - Women's Tennis
2 - 5 PM
Bearcats vs. Johnson C. Smith

Feb 24 - Men's Lacrosse
3 - 6 PM; Bearcats vs. Barton

Feb 24 - Men's Basketball
3:30 - 6:30 PM
Bearcats vs. Columbus State

Feb 26 - Women's Golf
All Day;
Low Tide Intercollegiate

Feb 26 - Men's Golf
All Day
Spring Bulldog Clash

Feb 26 - The Homage Exhibit
11 AM - 4 PM; Student Life

Feb 26 - Group X Team Sports
4 - 5 PM; Student Life

Feb 26 - Group X Spin
5 - 6 PM; Student Life

Feb 27 - Women's Golf
All Day; Low Tide Intercollegiate

Feb 27 - Men's Golf
All Day
Spring Bulldog Clash
Feb 27 - Women's Tennis
1:30 - 4:30 PM;
Bearcats @ Emmanuel

Feb 27 - Group X 15-Minute Abs
2:30 - 2:45 PM; Student Life

Feb 27 - Group X Team Sports
4 - 5 PM; Student Life

Feb 27 - Group X Bearcat Fit SGT
5 - 6:30 PM; Student Life

Feb 27 - Piano Festival Concert
7 - 9 PM; Performing & Fine Arts

Feb 28 - Softball; 2 - 7 PM -
Bearcats @ Lincoln Memorial

Feb 28 - Women's Lacrosse
4 - 7 PM; Bearcats @ Limestone

Feb 28 - Group X Team Sports
4 - 5 PM; Student Life

Feb 28 - Group X Zumba
5 - 6 PM; Student Life

Feb 28 - Group X Spin
5 - 6 PM; Student Life

Feb 28; Women's Basketball
5:30 - 7:30 PM;
Bearcats @ Flagler

Feb 28 - Group X Pilates
6 - 7 PM; Student Life

Feb 28 - Men's Basketball
7:30 - 10:30 PM;
Bearcats @ Flagler

Feb 29 - Men's Tennis
2:30 - 5:30 PM
Bearcats @ Francis Marion

Feb 29 - Group X Team Sports
4 - 5 PM; Student Life

Feb 29 - Group X Bearcat Fit HIIT
5 - 6 PM; Student Life

Feb 29 - Group X Spin
5 - 6 PM; Student Life

Feb 29
Wind Ensemble Concert
7 - 9 PM
Performing & Fine Arts

Lander Calendar of Events February

<p>Feb 1 - DIY Tote Bags 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM; Student Life</p> <p>Feb 1 - Baseball 2 - 5 PM; Bearcats @ Erskine</p> <p>Feb 1 - Group X Team Sports 4 - 5 PM; Student Life</p> <p>Feb 1 - Group X Spin 5 - 6 PM; Student Life</p> <p>Feb 1 - Group X Bearcat Fit HIIT 5 - 6 PM; Student Life</p> <p>Feb 1 - Intramural - Dodgeball 7 - 10 PM; Student Life</p> <p>Feb 1 - Wrestling 7 - 10 PM; Bearcats vs. Emmanuel</p> <p>Feb 2 - Men's Tennis 2 - 5 PM; Bearcats vs. Barton</p> <p>Feb 2 - Baseball 4 - 7 PM; Bearcats vs. Erskine</p> <p>Feb 2 - Wrestling 7 - 10 PM; Bearcats @ Lincoln Memorial</p> <p>Feb 3 - Equestrian Team; All Day</p> <p>Feb 3 - Men's Lacrosse 1 - 4 PM; Bearcats vs. Mount Olive</p> <p>Feb 3 - Men's Tennis 1:30 - 4:30 PM; Bearcats vs. Coker</p> <p>Feb 3 - Women's Basketball 1:30 - 3:30 PM; Bearcats @ Georgia Southwestern</p> <p>Feb 3 - Women's Tennis 1:30 - 4:30 PM; Bearcats vs. Coker</p> <p>Feb 3 - Softball 2 - 7 PM; Bearcats @ Lenoir-Rhyne</p> <p>Feb 3 - Baseball 3 - 6 PM; Bearcats vs. Erskine</p> <p>Feb 3 - Men's Basketball 7:30 - 10:30 PM; Bearcats @ Georgia Southwestern</p> <p>Feb 4 - Equestrian Team; All Day</p> <p>Feb 5 - Homecoming Week Feb. 5-10; All Day</p> <p>Feb 5 - Women's Golf All Day; 2024 World Golf Invitational</p> <p>Feb 5 - Group X Team Sports; 4 - 5 PM</p> <p>Feb 5 - Group X Spin; 5 - 6 PM</p> <p>Feb 5 - Homecoming - Banner Competition</p>	<p>5 - 5:30 PM; Student Life</p> <p>Feb - 5 - Homecoming - Strongest Bearcat; 6 - 9 PM; Student Life</p> <p>Feb 5 - Intramural - 3v3 Basketball 7 - 10 PM; Student Life</p> <p>Feb 5 - Acrobatics & Tumbling 7 - 10 PM; Bearcats @ Limestone</p> <p>Feb 6 - Women's Golf All Day; 2024 World Golf Invitational</p> <p>Feb 6 - Homecoming - Legally Blonde Movie Showing 10 AM - 11 PM; Student Life</p> <p>Feb 6 - Softball 2 - 7 PM; Bearcats vs. Coker</p> <p>Feb 6 - Group X 15-Minute Abs 2:30 - 2:45 PM; Student Life</p> <p>Feb 6 - Baseball 4 - 7 PM; Bearcats @ Belmont Abbey</p> <p>Feb 6 - Group X Team Sports 4 - 5 PM; Student Life</p> <p>Feb 6 - Group X Bearcat Fit SGT 5 - 6:30 PM; Student Life</p> <p>Feb 6 - Community Lecture Series: "Does Literature Make Us Better People?" 5:30 - 8 PM Presenter: Laura Martin; 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Feb 6 - Homecoming - Volleyball Tournament; 6 - 9 PM Student Life</p> <p>Feb 6 - Intramural - 6v6 Volleyball 7 - 10 PM; Student Life</p> <p>Feb 6 - Wrestling 7 - 10 PM; Bearcats vs. Montevallo</p> <p>Feb 7 - Bearcat for a Day 9 AM - 5 PM; Admissions</p> <p>Feb 7 - Group X Team Sports 4 - 5 PM; Student Life</p> <p>Feb 7 - Homecoming - Trivia 4 - 7 PM; Student Life</p> <p>Feb 7 - Group X Zumba 5 - 6 PM; Student Life</p> <p>Feb 7 - Group X Spin 5 - 6 PM - Student Life</p> <p>Feb 7 - Homecoming - Spirit Night 5:30 - 10 PM; Student Life</p> <p>Feb 7 - Group X Pilates 6 - 7 PM; Student Life</p> <p>Feb 7 - Intramural - Indoor Soccer 7 - 10 PM; Student Life</p>	<p>Feb 7 - Basketball 7:30 - 10:30 PM; Bearcats vs. USC Beaufort</p> <p>Feb 8 - Group X Team Sports 4 - 5 PM; Student Life</p> <p>Feb 8 - Group X Bearcat Fit HIIT 5 - 6 PM; Student Life</p> <p>Feb 8 - Group X Spin 5 - 6 PM; Student Life</p> <p>Feb 8 - Intramural - Dodgeball 7 - 10 PM; Student Life</p> <p>Feb 8 Homecoming - LU Y2K Talent Showcase 9 - 11 PM; Student Life</p> <p>Feb 9 Homecoming - Finish the Lyric 2 - 4 PM; Student Life</p> <p>Feb 9 - Women's Tennis 2 - 5 PM; Bearcats @ Mount Olive</p> <p>Feb 9 - Men's Tennis 2:30 - 5:30 PM; Bearcats vs. Mount Olive</p> <p>Feb 9 - Women's Lacrosse 4 - 7 PM; Bearcats @ Wingate</p> <p>Feb 9 - Baseball 5 - 8 PM; Bearcats vs. Lincoln Memorial</p> <p>Feb 9 - Homecoming - YOLO Silent Disco 6 - 9 PM; Student Life</p> <p>Feb 9 - Wrestling 7 - 10 PM; Bearcats vs. King</p> <p>Feb 10 - Softball; All Day; Brianna Surrento Kickoff Classic</p> <p>Feb 10 - Homecoming - Tailgating; 10 AM - 6:30 PM; Student Life</p> <p>Feb 10 - Men's Lacrosse 1 - 4 PM; Bearcats vs. Coker</p> <p>Feb 10 - Women's Basketball 1:30 - 3:30 PM Bearcats vs. Clayton State</p> <p>Feb 10 - Baseball 2 - 5 PM Bearcats vs. Lincoln Memorial</p> <p>Feb 10 - Men's Basketball 3:30 - 6:30 PM Bearcats vs. Clayton State</p> <p>Feb 11 - Baseball 1 - 4 PM; Bearcats vs. Lincoln Memorial</p>	<p>Feb 12 - Women's Golf All Day; Spring Kick-Off Intercollegiate</p> <p>Feb 12; Men's Golf All Day; Spring Kick-Off</p> <p>Feb 12 - Lander Student Juried Exhibit; All Day Performing & Fine Arts</p> <p>February 12-28; Group X Team Sports; 4 - 5 PM; Student Life</p> <p>Feb 12; Group X Spin 5 - 6 PM; Student Life</p> <p>Feb 12 - Intramural - 3v3 Basketball; 7 - 10 PM; Student Life</p> <p>Feb 13 - Women's Golf All Day; Spring Kick-Off Intercollegiate</p> <p>Feb 13 - Men's Golf All Day; Spring Kick-Off</p> <p>Feb 13 - Transfer Tuesday 9 AM - 5 PM; Admissions</p> <p>Feb 13 - Softball 2 - 7 PM; Bearcats vs. Newberry</p> <p>Feb 13 - Group X 15-Minute Abs 2:30 - 2:45 PM; Student Life</p> <p>Feb 13 - Men's Tennis 4 - 7 PM; Bearcats vs. Belmont Abbey</p> <p>Feb 13; Group X Team Sports 4 - 5 PM; Student Life</p> <p>Feb 13 - Baseball 5 - 8 PM; Bearcats vs. Coker</p> <p>Feb 13 - Group X Bearcat Fit SGT 5 - 6:30 PM; Student Life</p> <p>Feb 13 - Intramural - 6v6 Volleyball 7 - 10 PM; Student Life</p> <p>Feb 14 - Letter to My Love 11 AM - 1 PM; Student Life</p> <p>Feb 14 - Women's Lacrosse 4 - 7 PM; Bearcats @ Newberry</p> <p>Feb 14 - Group X Team Sports 4 - 5 PM; Student Life</p> <p>Feb 14 - Sex in the Dark 5 - 6:30 PM; Student Life</p> <p>Feb 14 - Group X Zumba 5 - 6 PM; Student Life</p> <p>Feb 14 - Group X Spin 5 - 6 PM; Student Life</p>
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