

# **Georgia College Press Association**

**2024 Better Newspaper Contest**

Feb. 23, 2024

**Best  
Column  
3rd Place**

**Matt  
Kodrowski**  
*The Roar*  
Piedmont University

The screenshot shows the homepage of 'The ROAR' website. The logo features the word 'The ROAR' in a large, bold, black font with green radiating lines behind it, and 'CAMPUS STUDENT MEDIA WITH PRIDE' in smaller text below. A navigation bar includes links for 'ROAR NEWS', 'ROAR VIDEO', 'ROAR AUDIO', 'STAFF', 'OUR MEDIA', and 'MORE'. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main content area features a green 'Opinions' tag above the article title 'Determined to break the cycle of divorce' by Matt Kodrowski, dated September 9, 2023. The article text begins with 'Have you ever had a moment where you uncovered a dark truth? Maybe it was a scandal about a celebrity you saw from a story in the media. Maybe it's an insecurity inside yourself that you've made known to your friend. Or maybe you learned something about your own family that suddenly changes everything you ever thought about the people closest to you. For me, it was when I learned about my own family's generational curse, one that is'. A photograph of a broken heart on a string is visible. A 'TRENDING STORIES' sidebar on the right lists five items with view counts. A 'Tweets from @piedmontroar' section is at the bottom right. Social media icons for Facebook, X, Instagram, YouTube, and RSS are in the top right. A vertical stack of social sharing icons is on the far right edge.

**The ROAR**  
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February 9 Baseball Season Preview

**Opinions**

## Determined to break the cycle of divorce

[Matt Kodrowski](#)  
September 9, 2023

Have you ever had a moment where you uncovered a dark truth? Maybe it was a scandal about a celebrity you saw from a story in the media. Maybe it's an insecurity inside yourself that you've made known to your friend. Or maybe you learned something about your own family that suddenly changes everything you ever thought about the people closest to you. For me, it was when I learned about my own family's generational curse, one that is



<https://piedmontroar.com/roar-news/>

**TRENDING STORIES**

- 1 Piedmont Students Mourn Rev Tim's Disappearance in the New Semester • 946 Views
- 2 The Montauk Project • 441 Views
- 3 New Restaurant in Town • 273 Views
- 4 What Happens When We Die? • 142 Views
- 5 Bermuda Triangle • 90 Views

**Tweets from @piedmontroar**

Kelly Sikkema @sunsplash

## On Track: Mental health struggles impossible to outrun

[Chris Donsereaux](#), Opinions Editor  
March 24, 2023

It was May 3rd, 2019, probably one of the happiest days for me as an athlete, sitting in the media center at North Springs High School. The minute that pen touched the paper, I knew I was a college athlete. Throughout high school I knew I wanted to play collegiate sports; it was just a matter of where I would play and what sport would it be?

Growing up I played basketball for most of my youth; it wasn't until my junior year of high school that I made the transition to track and field. Making that switch was hard for me mentally as basketball was the only sport I



Chris Donsereaux meditates ahead of competing at an event PHOTO//Ryleigh Bell

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### Tweets from @piedmontroar



**Best  
Column  
2nd Place**

**Chris  
Donsereaux**  
*The Roar*  
Piedmont University

**Best  
Column  
1st Place**

**Chloe  
Spradlin**  
*The  
Roar*  
Piedmont  
University

The screenshot displays the homepage of 'The ROAR' website. At the top, the logo features the word 'The ROAR' in a large, bold, black font, with 'CAMPUS STUDENT MEDIA WITH PRIDE' in a smaller font below it. To the right of the logo is a dark grey button that says 'Press (fn) F to exit full screen'. Further right are social media icons for Facebook, X, Instagram, YouTube, and RSS. Below the logo is a dark green navigation bar with white text for 'ROAR NEWS', 'ROAR VIDEO', 'ROAR AUDIO', 'STAFF', 'OUR MEDIA', 'PIEDMONT MASS COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT', and 'MORE'. A search bar is located to the right of the navigation bar. Below the navigation bar, a dark green banner displays the date 'February 9' and the article title 'Men's and Women's Lacrosse Season Preview'. The main content area features a green 'Opinions' tag above the article title ''Gifted' tag adds unnecessary pressure to children'. The author's name 'Chloe Spradlin' and the date 'February 7, 2023' are listed below the title. The article text begins with 'I tried to kill myself in the fifth grade. It didn't work.' and continues with 'I was 10, and never got in trouble. I was a goody-two-shoes, a teacher's pet, an extreme rule follower. I earned excellent grades without trying and was always the favorite among teachers. I was the epitome of a gifted kid.' To the right of the text is a photograph of a person's hands holding a pen and writing in a notebook. On the right side of the page, there is a 'TRENDING STORIES' section with a list of five items, each with a number, a title, and a view count. Below this is a 'Tweets from @piedmontroar' section. A vertical sidebar on the far right contains several circular icons for social media and sharing options.

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February 9 Men's and Women's Lacrosse Season Preview

Opinions

'Gifted' tag adds unnecessary pressure to children

[Chloe Spradlin](#)  
February 7, 2023

I tried to kill myself in the fifth grade. It didn't work.

I was 10, and never got in trouble. I was a goody-two-shoes, a teacher's pet, an extreme rule follower. I earned excellent grades without trying and was always the favorite among teachers. I was the epitome of a gifted kid.

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Tweets from @piedmontroar

<https://piedmontroar.com>

# Best Review

3rd Place  
Group I

# Elliot Yood

*The Red & Black*  
University of Georgia

## REVIEW: UGA student artist Catie Cook imbues womanhood in work

Elliot Yood Apr 12, 2023



"The World's Most Famous Doll Having The Time of Her Life!" oil on canvas by Catie Cook (Courtesy/Catie Cook)



### Local Events

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MAR 29 **Snapshot** Talks & Lectures  
TEDxUGA 2024: Snapshot

Morton Theatre 7:00PM

FEB 22 **Book Signings**



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# Best Review 2nd Place Group I Abigail Dunagan Campus Carrier Berry College



**Friday, Feb. 17  
4:00 p.m.**  
Indoor Climbing hosted by the Department of Recreation at Stone Summit in Kennesaw, Ga

**Friday, Feb. 17  
11:00 p.m.**  
Mofield Late Night: Valentine's Day Dance at **Krannert Ballroom**

**Saturday, Feb. 18  
8:00 p.m.**  
Caving at Howards Waterfall cost \$10 charged to student account. **Meet at Richards Gym.**

**Sunday, Feb. 19  
7:00 p.m.**  
College Chapel Service.

**Thursday, Feb. 9  
5:00 p.m.**  
When Strivings Cease. Hosted by Women's Prayer and Share at **Krannert 324**

**Monday, Feb. 20  
6:30 p.m.**  
BCM Bible Study at **Barnwell Chapel**

**Tuesday, Feb. 21  
5:30 p.m.**  
Annual Soup Off hosted by Leadership and Service Fellows at **Krannert Ballroom**

## Art exhibit comes to Oak Hill and Martha Berry Museum

**Abigail Dunagan**  
*assist. arts and living editor*

From February 1 until April 15, the Oak Hill and the Martha Berry Museum will be hosting a collection of paintings by leading contemporary artist Makoto Fujimura. The exhibit features a series of paintings by Fujimura, most notably works "Walking on Water," and "Water Flames."

An elegy is a work of art that expresses mourning and sorrow for something that has been lost. The piece "Walking on Water" was created by Fujimura to pay respects to the victims of the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Tohoku, Japan. This piece asks the question "can we walk on water?" The painting "Water Flames" was painted after the September 2001 terrorist attacks. Both works are elegies, created by Fujimura to pay respects to the victims of these

Junior student worker Emma Servaes says she has seen a lot of interest in this exhibit within the

Berry community. The museum has been receiving a lot of emails from visitors who have been looking forward to visiting the gallery.

"From the student and staff perspective, we have all been really excited to see the exhibit," Servaes said. "I have been telling my friends to come see it because it is really cool."

This is one of the most unique exhibits that the museum has had.

Blake Howard

Fujimura is from the United States, and he studied art in both the United States and Japan. His art is style is called "abstract expressionism." Fujimura's style is a fusion of modernism and art from 16th and 17th century Japan. The pieces are classified as "slow art." Fujimura's art is intended to be observed slowly so that the smaller details and meaning of the art can be fully appreciated.

The exhibit is brought to Berry College through the Center for Integrity and Leadership (BCIL). The paintings were chosen to be displayed in the Oak Hill and Martha Berry Museum because of the spacious gallery room located in the museum. The gallery space is a well-lit area which allows visitors to view each of



Mia Maxwell | CAMPUS CARRIER

"Water Flames" by Makoto Fujimura is an elegy to the victims of the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami that took place in Tohoku, Japan.

the paintings from both farther away and up close. This allows guests to experience the pieces as "slow art" and to fully immerse in the artwork.

"These are really huge and monumental pieces that you should be able to step back and take a good look at from far away, and to step close and take another look," Servaes said.

While there has been a lot of student and staff interest in the gallery, the exhibit has also been very popular with art students at Berry. Student worker Blake Howard says that it has been really exciting to see the art pieces installed in the gallery.

"This is one of the most unique exhibits that the museum has had," Howard said. "It has been really interesting to see modern artwork at the museum."

This is one of the most unique art exhibits that Berry College has had the opportunity to host. This opportunity for the Oak Hill Museum to host this art gallery opens a lot of doors for future artist talks and exhibits.

Over the next few weeks, Fujimura will be hosting series of lectures at the museum. These lectures will take place on March 23 at 6 p.m. and on March 24 at 5 p.m.



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**Best  
Review**  
1st Place  
Group I

**Tai  
Goodman**  
*The Stallion*  
Abraham Baldwin  
Agricultural College

# Lifestyles

Talia Guthrie  
Editor



April 27, 2023

## “The Beginner’s Guide” Review



*In game photo of “The Beginner’s Guide.” Photo via Tai Goodman.*

**TAI GOODMAN**  
Staff Writer

Video-games wouldn’t be anything without their level designers. Otherwise, there would simply be no game to play. As time has progressed, graphics have evolved, interactivity has expanded, and level design has become more of an art for some. It doesn’t matter how realistic or cartoonish it appears, because in art: everything qualifies.

Could you look into someone’s mind just by the work that they create? From Davey Wreden, co-creator of the critically acclaimed walking simulator, “The Stanley Parable,” comes “The Beginner’s Guide.” This time, it’s not about venturing off the beaten path and listening to a hilarious narrator, but about exploring someone’s work from the inside and struggling to understand it.

“The Beginner’s Guide” is narrated by Wreden himself as he tells you about his

friend named “Coda,” who had a knack for making levels (dubbed “games”), before mysteriously vanishing. After numerous attempts to reach Coda, Wreden was unsuccessful and was only left with all the levels that Coda had made.

In the game, Wreden allows you to experience all of Coda’s creations firsthand. What’s interesting about “The Beginner’s Guide” is that the levels Coda has made are nonlinear and abstract. Every level is different, but as you move through the game, you see recurring things like a shining lamp post, an easy door puzzle, or three black dots in random places. The levels themselves, while simplistic and bizarrely made, are entertaining to explore.

One is filled to the brim with speech bubbles that rise and display a random message when in close proximity. While reading all of them doesn’t change anything, it feels worthwhile to see each one.

Another level is one where Coda designed a “prison,” which was really a living room with a table, two sofas, a lamp, and a coffee table behind bars, set across from a floating well in the distance. Playing through the level, eventually Wreden starts showing you that Coda had made multiple variants of it, sparking inquiry about his interests.

That’s a huge theme in this game: “inquiry.” The game asks more questions than it answers. Wreden’s constant narration containing assumptions and theories about the meaning behind Coda’s work is what makes the rabbit hole go deeper. It’s entertaining to try to hypothesize along with Wreden what it could all mean, but it’s brutal knowing that you might never find out. Is levitating through the ceiling of a space-shuttle and into the sky-box a symbol of being larger than the universe itself, or is

it a glitch that needs fixing? You don’t know. Wreden doesn’t know. Nobody knows. It’s up to your imagination.

Wreden also edits the levels sometimes to show you things that Coda had hidden behind, trying to unpack every single detail. Doing this, you’re able to see different sides of not only Coda, but also Wreden himself. The more levels you play, the more you might notice that Coda is struggling with loneliness and considers his work useless. On the other hand, Wreden’s desperation to uncover the meaning of it shows that he misses his friend more than anything else. Sometimes it’s interesting, but other times, it turns depressing.

It’s also worth mentioning that despite the zany layout of the levels, the game is beautiful to take in. Running on the Source engine, the levels of “The Beginner’s Guide” are stunning, interesting, and grand. From the flashes of spotlights on a theater stage, to a small coffee shop estranged in big blank terrain, this game definitely proves that level design is art. No intentional floating boxes, colorless NPCs with boxes on their heads, or winding parkour segments across triangular blocks will ever efface this achievement.

While “The Beginner’s Guide” isn’t long, or like any other game on the market, its impact is powerful, all the way to the conclusion. You won’t feel like you’ve played through a handful of vague levels, but like you’ve examined some underrated masterpieces with no conclusion.

In the end, the only thing more painful than not comprehending something is knowing you’ll never comprehend it—if you even should. “The Beginner’s Guide” isn’t a guide, but it’s a great tale of mystery, friendship, and inconclusiveness.

# Best Review

## 3rd Place Group II

# Matt Kodrowski

*The Roar*

Piedmont University

The screenshot shows the website 'The ROAR' with a navigation menu and a featured article. The article is titled 'Violent Night' not a standard Christmas movie' by Matt Kodrowski, dated January 4, 2023. The article text begins with 'Violent Night.' Whoever came up with this name for this Christmas(?) movie definitely was not lying. Below the text is a partial image of a man in a Santa hat with the text 'L'ESPÈRE QUE T'AS ÉTÉ SAGE.' To the right, there is a 'TRENDING STORIES' section with five items, each with a number, title, and view count. At the bottom right, there is a 'Tweets from @piedmontroar' section.

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**The ROAR**  
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February 9 Softball Season Preview

A&E

## 'Violent Night' not a standard Christmas movie

[Matt Kodrowski](#)  
January 4, 2023

"Violent Night." Whoever came up with this name for this Christmas(?) movie definitely was not lying.

Remember being a child striving to be on Santa's nice list? Well, now the consequences for being on his naughty list are more than just a lump of coal. It is a complete and total physical annihilation, courtesy of the fatally funny himself.

L'ESPÈRE QUE T'AS ÉTÉ SAGE.

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### Tweets from @piedmontroar



# Best Review

2nd Place  
Group II

# Rowan Edmonds

*The Roar*  
Piedmont University

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February 9 Men's and Women's Lacrosse Season Preview

A&E Slider Posts

"Bright Star" Guides You to the Piedmont University Theatre

TRENDING STORIES

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Tweets from @piedmontroar

https://piedmontroar.com

## 'Passing Strange' lets you make your own reality

AANYA SAWHNEY  
STAFF WRITER

less rebellion of sleeping  
in on a Sunday

The lights dimmed, drums, bass and guitar rock stage left — another sleek guitar and a keytar boomed rock stage right. A wall of retro stereos cleared the stage, creating the perfect backdrop for Theatrical Outfit's rendition of "Passing Strange," a comedy-drama rock musical about a young African American, called only "Youth," on his journey of self-discovery through artistry. The show opened to the public last Friday, Sept. 29.

Opening weekend welcomed October into the intimate venue — though it was hardly chilly. The Balzer Theater's charming atmosphere warmed an already pleasant weekend, and as the Narrator (Brad Raymond, "Legacies") took the stage with a sunny smile and shimmering purple silk shirt, the stage grew warmer still.

Raymond began by asking the audience to listen carefully, drawing them into the show even before it starts. "This is not just a play, this is a concert," Raymond said, opening up the performance with a welcoming invitation to dance, sing along and move to the beat during the show to come.

With that, Raymond straddled a peaked-off stage, the backdrop wall of screens opening up to reveal him once again in the center with a guitar, opening up the show with his first song, "Prologue (We Might Play All Night)." Through the opening, Raymond sets the scene: the Youth and his Mother live in South Central Los Angeles in 1976.

The lead guitarist (Joel Sudd) fills the strings softly as the scene unfolds. The Youth (Christian Magby, "The Flash") sleeps in his Mother (Latrice Pace, "Shakin' the Rafterz") struggles to wake him for church.

If it is a familiar scene close to many hearts — the

The Youth reluctantly oblige and heads to church, where he faces the judgment of "church moms" who nag him to join the youth choir. At this moment, he has an unprecedented revelation: he sees "The Real." However, this revelation is hardly religious, to the dismay of his Mother and the rest of the church moms, who sigh in disappointment as the Youth exclaims, "Feeling the spirit all church ain't nothing but rock and roll... I can't hear the difference."

While the Youth temporarily submits to joining the church youth choir to soothe his Mother and get the attention of his crush, Edwina Williams (India Tyrone, "Incredible Book, Eating Boy"), his initiation into the proper circle involves him rickshacking a joint of marijuana. The leader of the youth choir, Franklin (Trevor Rayshaw Perry, "Head Over Heels"), is the minister's son and the golden boy of the church. However, Franklin has other dreams.

"We're all freaks just looking for a home in this phantasm of a fallback," Franklin tells the Youth over a joint.

Franklin tells the Youth about the freedom of Europe and his dream of finally being himself. Unfortunately, Franklin's dream remains unrealized. "Towards don't have options... only come options," he tells the Youth. The tables turn for the Youth; he is not like the others. He wants to play rock and roll. He can't shake his friends and family to travel to Europe in search of The Real.

But what is The Real? Ironically, The Real is a construct — a whisper of a secret truth we all search for. For some, The Real is religion; for others, academia. For the Youth, it is his rock music. Everyone is drunk on something.

The central conflict of the play is the idea of "passing." Franklin says to the Youth, "We're passing for Black folk." In America,



The Youth is in Berlin flanked by members of Nowhaus during a performance of "The Black One." The song refers to his tokenization of his identity as he is trying to fit in with revolutionaries.

Franklin and the Youth tried and failed to put themselves in the box of others' design. Their Blackness — the very identity the Youth left America to escape — became a tool of tokenization in his journey abroad.

As the Youth builds his "found family" abroad in Amsterdam, he becomes "bored of paradise." For the purpose of composing music, he only misses the Youth has ever known — the paradise of Amsterdam's freedom wears thin.

Next he travels to Berlin, creating another family for himself and falling in love with Desi (Ariana Hardaway, "Zombie Prom"), a Marxist from West Berlin and the leader of Nowhaus, a collective of revolutionaries. The Youth has finally found his new family — but again, he must become someone he is not.

With the confrontation from both Desi and his Mother, the Youth crumbles, the stories of oppression he had told his friends — though not truly his stories — reflected the pain within him. The turmoil within him is something much less concrete.

It is the struggle of identity — of losing yourself in the journey to find yourself.

His pain is the reason he has chased The Real so far away from home, so how can he let it take shape? To let his pain out is to let it go, and if he mends himself how can he make art?

The show's conversation the Youth has with the Mother is heartbreaking. As students, we can almost feel the conversation ourselves.

At this stage in our lives, we have all left our home in some way. The Youth is yelling — crying — into the phone, but Mother no longer answers. Her last words were "I don't want to be lonely. I want to be loved."

Magby and Pace gave a moving performance. Magby, especially

tried his veracity in this scene, showing the audience his belting and ballad capabilities.

The Youth responds, "It's not love if somebody has to change." Something trembles within the audience. We are the Youth. We are the Mother. The Youth's very character — nameless — leads itself to this embodiment.

We were all no more children during The Real, but at some point, we have also been those lonely souls cast aside in someone else's journey. During this moment, the poignant emotion and viscerality of it all reveal the alleghorical Youth and Mother.

During the phone call, the Youth is aloof and defensive, but the Narrator's facial expressions during the scene show the audience the Youth's true feelings. Raymond gives a spectacular and meta performance as the narrator, reflecting the inner condition of the Youth through his diatriphic gaze.

The ability of Raymond to put himself in the shoes of both Magby and the Youth's character as a whole solidify Raymond's ability to bridge the performance and audience.

The final scenes of the show reminded the stage — speaking directly to the audience "Your life becomes evidence of the need to feel."

The actors delivered the core message of "Passing Strange" flawlessly. Theatrical Outfit's showing of "Passing Strange" is not to be missed, and the show's unique, intimate atmosphere and masterful performance create an unforgettable experience.

The show will have you asking whose Real you are living in and who you are passing as. Theatrical Outfit's performance grabs you by the shoulders, imploring, "Who are you, really?"

"Passing Strange" is showing from Sept. 27 — Oct. 22. More information can be found at theatricaloutfit.org.



The youth choir and the Mother circle around the Youth while the Narrator backs up the band from the background. The Youth realizes that religion is actually just rock and roll to him

# Best Review 1st Place Group II

# Aanya Sawhney

## The Technique

Institute of Georgia  
Technology

**Best Photograph:  
Editorial/Feature**

3rd Place

Group I

**Ethan Chen**

*The Technique*

Georgia Institute of  
Technology



**Best Photograph:  
Editorial/Feature**  
2nd Place  
Group I

**Camille Schmeid**  
*Campus Carrier*  
Berry College



**Best  
Photograph:  
Editorial/  
Feature**

1st Place  
Group I

**Alexey  
Tatarinov**  
*The Technique*  
Georgia Institute of  
Technology



**Best Photograph:  
Editorial/Feature**

3rd Place  
Group II

**Liz Rymarev**

*The Red & Black*

University of Georgia



**Best  
Photograph:  
Editorial/  
Feature**  
2nd Place  
Group II

**Tyler  
Parker**

*The Technique*  
Georgia Institute of  
Technology

ENTERTAINMENT



**Best Photograph:  
Editorial/Feature**

1st Place  
Group II

**Laney Martin**

*The Red & Black*  
University of Georgia





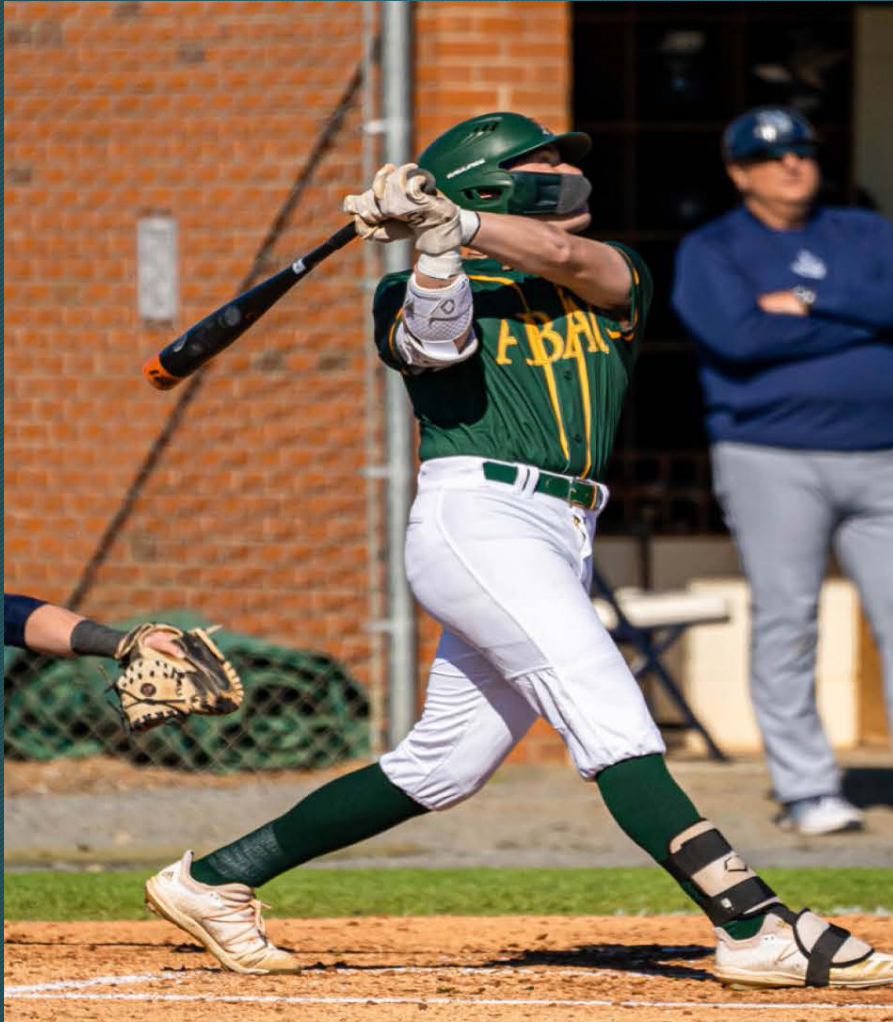


# Best Photograph: Sports

3rd Place  
Group I

**Nico  
Klementzos**

*Campus Carrier*  
Berry College



**Best  
Photograph:  
Sports**

2nd Place  
Group I

**Francisco  
Garcia**

*The Stallion*  
Abraham Baldwin  
Agricultural College

**Best  
Photograph:  
Sports**

1st Place  
Group I

**Camille Schmied**

*Campus Carrier*

Berry College



# Best Photograph: Sports

3rd Place  
Group II

# Jessica Gratigny

*The Red & Black*  
University of Georgia



**Best Photograph:**  
**Sports**  
2nd Place  
Group II

**Rachel Carman**  
*The Bell Ringer*  
Augusta University



# Best Photograph: Sports

1st Place  
Group II

## Jessica Gratigny

*The Red & Black*  
University of Georgia



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# Best Photograph: News

3rd Place  
Group I

# Caitlyn Ayccock

*The Technique*

Georgia Institute of Technology



**Best Photograph:**  
**News**  
2nd Place  
Group I

**Felix Scheyer**  
*The Red & Black*  
University of Georgia





# Best Photograph: News

1st Place  
Group I

**Jenna Arnold**

*The Spectator*

Valdosta State University



# Best Photograph: News

3rd Place  
Group II

**Kelsey Skendziel**

*The Roar*  
Piedmont University



# Best Photograph: Tyler Parker

News

*The Technique*

2nd Place  
Group II

Georgia Institute of Technology



**Best Photograph:**  
**News**  
1st Place  
Group II

**Landen Todd**  
*The Red & Black*  
University of Georgia



**Best Photo  
Essay**

3rd Place

**Christina  
Charles**

*The George-Anne  
Inkwell*

Georgia Southern  
University Armstrong  
Campus



# Best Photo Essay 2nd Place

**Liz  
Rymarev**  
*The Red &  
Black*  
University of  
Georgia

## REMEMBERING Devin Willock

Loved ones keep  
the memory of  
No. 77 alive



Devin Willock holds a wooden coin with Devin Willock's number, 77, at Paramus Central High School in Paramus, New Jersey, on Friday, Nov. 10, 2023. [PHOTO BY LIZ RYMARREV](#)



Devin Willock holds Devin Willock's friend, New Willock High School football player, Jordan, in Park, Monticello, New Jersey, on Friday, November 10, 2023. Not to be confused by her dad for these were and made for Mother's Day. [PHOTO BY LIZ RYMARREV](#)

**Dawn Sawyer**

Devin Willock's dog felt her snore every day at 3 a.m., begging to be let out.  
"Scodie, it's too early," Shastone says to the black labrador retriever.  
Believes her and Shastone's other dog, Nova, Scodie is always the initiator of the 140, "Or back to bed."  
But Shastone's father very often, but Shastone's never stay mad at her. Kodie is, after all, Devin's dog.  
Shastone used to speak with her son, Devin Willock, close to 100 times in the morning, as he made his way to class in GA, and she made her way to work in New York in a couple days' distance. The regular check-ins were like check-ins for the mother and son. Until earlier this year—until for day properly repeated itself for the Willock family and he was gone.  
Devin was an offensive lineman, No. 77 for the University of Georgia football team, who played in both national championship victories in 2011 and 2012. But beyond that, according to his family and friends, he was extraordinary.  
"Remembering Devin, he was a positive person, he was a bright person," Shastone said. "I think he was the donee way all the time... He was forever smiling."  
Devin Willock and Georgia football recruiting analyst Chandler LeCroy died in a car accident on Jan. 13 in Athens, Georgia, in the early hours of the morning after the national championship celebration parade. His loss came as a devastating blow to his teammates at The Citadel, Drew Jolley, and to his loved ones in Georgia as well.  
"Devin, he was quiet about this year," Shastone said. "This was going to be his year. He planned, he was going to work hard, he said he was going to do what he had to do. He was going to get it done this year. He was ready."

SEE WILLOCK ON PAGE A3



Devin Willock looks out of the window of her home. [PHOTO BY LIZ RYMARREV](#)

**BRUXIE**  
Athensteam@bruxie.com | 311 E. Broad Street | Athens, GA  
706-850-1358

**Best Photo  
Essay**  
1st Place

**Avni Trivedi**  
*The Red & Black*  
University of Georgia

**A  
DAY  
IN  
THE  
LIFE  
OF  
THE  
SPIKE  
SQUAD**



**The  
Red &  
Black**

**FOLLOW OUR  
NEW INSTAGRAM  
TO STAY INFORMED**



**@REDANDBLACKGA**

# Best Sports Story

3rd Place  
Group I

# Erin Donovan

*The Roar*  
Piedmont University

## Hebrink channels pressure of being a national champion

[Erin Donovan](#)

November 14, 2023

After holing out on his 17<sup>th</sup> hole in the national championship, Josh Hebrink was not only about to make Piedmont history, but he was about to begin a mentally-tolling endeavor. The 2023 NCAA Division III National Champion would now face the heightened expectations of success.

"I definitely have more expectations on myself," Hebrink said. "The feeling of winning and then you have to go back that up."

Success didn't come naturally for the senior psychology major from Elk River, Minnesota. In the early stages of his athletic career, Hebrink did not realize the potential he held in golf, spending most of his adolescence playing multiple sports. His lack of success in other sports encouraged Hebrink to solely focus on golf.

"I wasn't very good in high school, so I had two schools in Northern Minnesota I was looking at," Hebrink said. "I went to one and I just wanted to play, and it was not good at all."

Frustrated with his lack of playing time at the University of Minnesota Crookston, Hebrink transferred to Piedmont in spring 2021. In his first semester at Piedmont, Hebrink competed in seven events and officially began his collegiate campaign. He learned from his teammates and coach to develop his game into that of a national champion.

"I improved a lot by coaching and being pushed by other players that are here," Hebrink said, noting that it his teammates that played a huge role in his development. "They pushed me to further levels that I didn't have before"



Karl Moore

After becoming Piedmont's first-ever national champion last spring, Josh Hebrink is facing the added pressure of being the best.

Views

- 1 The Montauk Project • 482 Views
- 2
- 3 New Restaurant in Town • 314 Views
- 4 What Happens When We Die? • 180 Views
- 5 Bermuda Triangle • 86 Views

Tweets from @piedmontroar



**Nothing to see here - yet**

When they Tweet, their Tweets will show up here.

[View on Twitter](#)

RECENT STORIES



BREAKING NEWS: Look Down, "SAVE GAZA"

February 20, 2024





# Best Sports Story

2nd Place  
Group I

# Alexis Mack

*The Stallion*

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

## Sports

Hunter Lovelace  
Editor



March 15, 2023

## The History of Basketball at ABAC



Photo of 2002 ABAC Fillies Basketball state champions. Photo via of ABAC.

**ALEXIS MACK**  
Staff Writer

For more than 80 years, basketball had been considered a staple sport at ABAC. Having a men's (Golden Stallions) and women's (Fillies) team, the sport enjoyed a successful run winning decades' worth of championships and titles. Many of the coaches and players have been recognized for their achievements throughout the years. What was once considered a sport that brought members of the community

together, now just remains a memory as all players and coaches have since moved on.

In 2008, former ABAC president Dr. Bridges announced that the school was cutting both the men and women's basketball teams effective immediately. He cited the combination of rising gas prices, state budget cutbacks and the lack of head coaches for the teams as reason for the disbandment. Though many expressed disappointments at the decision, Dr. Bridges remained confident in the belief that eliminating the sport would be a financial benefit in the long run while

also strengthening the school's other six sports that they had at the time.

ABAC has seen several sports come and go, including women's basketball for a 15-year time period starting in 1986 season, citing low participation caused by competition with recruiting senior colleges and universities. While the school was optimistic about the possibility of basketball returning, there has been no serious push yet in its 13-year absence.

With former ABAC basketball teams and coaches being inducted into the hall

of fame in 2012, 2013, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020, it is clear that the sport is still on someone's radar.

In 2018, ABAC's Georgia Museum of Agriculture hosted a "Glory Days" exhibit, showcasing old sports memorabilia including those from the school's basketball teams.

In 2019, ABAC's 1968-69 Golden Stallions men's basketball team was inducted into the ABAC Athletics Hall of Fame. 12 players and their coach Vann Bracken attended the ceremony. The Stallions were the first intercollegiate athletics team at ABAC with Black players, prompting change since integration was still making its way across the South. The team had a 25-6 record and won the Southern Conference of the Georgia Junior College Athletic Association (GJCAA) with a perfect 12-0. They averaged 93 points a game and scored over 100 points nine times.

In 2020, ABAC's 2002 Fillies women's state championship team were inducted into the Hall of Fame. Headed by Coach Julie Connor. After their win the Fillies hosted the first and only women's basketball national tournament game in the history of ABAC. Coach Connor went on to coach the Lady Devil's girl basketball team at ABAC following the disbandment.

Students can play basketball at ABAC, just not on a collegiate level. Through intramural sports and a court in the athletic field, students have the opportunity to play for fun, not for academic benefits.

With a new ABAC President who had a history of playing college basketball and a new athletic director, it is possible that basketball could come back into talks. With the addition of cross country as a new ABAC sport last semester under the coaching of former Tift County High School Cross Country coach Mike Beeman, there is some hope that an official team could possibly be reinstated in the future. If so, it could bring a wider variety of students at ABAC.

# Best Sports Story

1st Place  
Group I

# Gabriel Kopp

*The Cluster*  
Mercer University

COVID-19 CAMPUS NEWS STATE & LOCAL NEWS ARTS & CULTURE SPORTS OPINION ABOUT ▾

## SPORTS

### Injury could have derailed his career, he never gave up



Robby Carmody attempts a field goal for the Bears against #22 University of Alabama on Nov. 17. The Bears lost the game, 98-67. Media by [Photo from Mercer Athletics](#).

By [Gabriel Kopp](#)

December 7, 2023 | 12:00am EST

Robby Carmody has serious talent.

## Popular

**ATO apologizes for \$11,410 misappropriated from Camp for a Cause 2022 funds**

By [Eliza Moore](#) | January 31

**UPDATE: ATO alumni fully returns funds from 2022 philanthropy event.**

By [Henry Keating](#) | February 1

**Mercer taps a Lenoir-Rhyne coach again to lead Mercer Football**

By [Gabriel Kopp](#) | January 25

**Mercer club sports add wrestling team**

By [Isaiah Lyseight](#) | January 27

**Mike Jacobs introduced on Wednesday**

By [Gabriel Kopp](#) | February 5

Tweets from  
[@MercerCluster](#)

# Best Sports Story

## 3rd Place

### Group II

# Matthew Kistner

## *The Technique*

Georgia Institute of Technology

16 • August 25, 2023 • technique

// SPORTS

## Realignment ends geographical conferences

**MATTHEW KISTNER**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Before the 2022 football season, Texas and Oklahoma announced their departure from the Big 12 Conference to the Southeastern Conference (SEC) in July 2024. This move surprised most, as super conferences had largely been just talk up to that point. Texas and Oklahoma joined the Big 12 in 1996 and have greatly supported the conference in revenue ever since. With their departure, the Big 12 had to adapt quickly to sustain funds, so they added Brigham Young, Cincinnati, Central Florida and Houston to the league starting in the 2023 season.

Following the Texas and Oklahoma departure, actual conference realignment remained relatively quiet while fans frantically theorized about huge conferences of the current juggernauts.

It appeared that Texas and Oklahoma were the only ones with eyes to make such a move until UCLA and USC made an announcement of their departure from the Pac-12 to the Big Ten.

This move received a lot of scrutiny on the basis of geographical common sense as Texas and Oklahoma are relatively close to the other SEC schools, being in the south themselves.

However, all the Big Ten teams are located in the midwest or near there. USC and UCLA are both on the West Coast and in a completely different time zone, so their joining of the Big Ten alarmed most for the future

of college sports as the move was clearly only for financial benefit.

Unfortunately, USC and UCLA's move inspired others of the west coast to realign as well. Washington and Oregon then announced their moving to the Big Ten from the Pac-12, putting four west coast teams into a league full of midwest opponents. However, the Pac-12 was now without their top four revenue generating teams and had no action plan to combat this. With no signs of action from the Pac-12, Arizona, Arizona State, Colorado and Utah jumped ship for the Big 12, leaving just four teams in the Pac-12.

All this movement now leaves the Big 12 with 16 teams, the SEC with 16, the Big Ten with 18, the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) with 15 and the Pac-12 with four. However, these numbers are still subject to change as rumors emerge of teams departing their respective conferences. The president of Florida State made a threat to leave the ACC due to not receiving enough revenue from the conference for how much the school brings to it. This threat scared most fans, as Florida State would never leave the ACC without other teams leaving alongside them. Clemson, North Carolina and Miami are estimated to be the other primary targets for conferences to acquire.

With conferences becoming far larger than before, quantitatively and geographically, the future of college sports comes into question. College sports have always been about the money, but on a far more discrete level than they are becoming. Football is the biggest fund genera-

tor for all schools, and most realignments have been made with that in mind. However, if these moves fail, it could mean the end of some non-revenue programs at schools. For example, with Oregon's move to the Big Ten, the Oregon athletic department has to fly their softball, volleyball and track teams to the Midwest almost weekly.

This is a cost that will surely add up on the program, and if their revenue generation for the Big Ten is not enough, the school could lose money.

A lot of these programs are at risk in the eyes of fans, especially the fans of schools that did not make the big moves. Former

President George W. Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice have even gotten involved, lobbying for Southern Methodist University (SMU) and Stanford to join the ACC. Stanford and SMU are both on the outskirts of these big moves, and without a move to a major conference, the schools are in danger of losing large portions of their athletic departments.

The ACC originally voted not to accept the pair to the conference, but since the former President and Secretary of State's involvement, a re-vote has been called.

With some of the highest revenue-generating teams of the

ACC threatening to leave, Tech is in danger of needing to adjust. Head football coach Brent Key expressed that he was "worried about Georgia Tech and the ACC," when asked about it in a press conference.

Many Tech fans share Key's sentiment, as the program is not in the best position to make a bid for one of the new super conferences. It is in Tech's best interest that the ACC remain intact and not succumb to the major changes going on outside of the conference.

Despite all this, one thing is sure: conference realignment is here, and it is not going anywhere.



Photo courtesy of Darron Cummings Associated Press  
Big Ten Commissioner Tony Petitti discussed further expansion to the West Coast at a press conference. The Big Ten has already added Oregon, Washington, USC and UCLA.

# Best Sports Story

2nd Place  
Group II

Mary  
Harrison  
and  
Bradynn  
Belcher

Campus Carrier  
Berry College

## Over 50 years of Title IX: Looking back and moving forward



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAMPUS ARCHIVES



PHOTO COURTESY OF MATTHEW MCCONNELL

**LEFT:** Becky Burleigh advising Berry women's soccer players at practice in 1990, after becoming the program's second head coach. Burleigh coached Kathy Insel Brown and other members of the 1993 team to the program's third national championship. **RIGHT:** Burleigh poses with current Berry women's soccer head coach, Insel Brown, during the soccer program's alumni weekend last month. Insel Brown said that Burleigh was her first female coach and inspired her to consider a coaching career. Even today, Insel Brown is the first female coach that many of her players have had in the male-dominated realm of soccer coaching.

**Mary Harrison**  
*sports editor*

**Bradynn Belcher**  
*assistant sports editor*

Imagine a coach being hired who is younger than some players on the team. Imagine that coach leading that team to three national championships within ten years of the program starting. Now, imagine that coach is a woman in a male-dominated field in the early 1990s.

This describes the situation of Becky Burleigh, who became the second head coach of the Berry College women's soccer team in 1989, at age 21.

"It was a little bit of validation that I wasn't just taking over what [the former male coach] had started," Burleigh said. "What I was doing was helping us continue and sustain the program."

This fall marks the 30-year anniversary of the women's soccer team's last national championship. Twenty years earlier, the US government passed the Education Amendments of 1972, which through Title IX prohibited any sex-based discrimination in "any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

Berry was on the leading edge of gender equity before Title IX implementation, according to former student athletes and staff like Burleigh, and continues to promote female

success in sports over half a century later.

Paul Deaton, head coach of the Vikings cross country teams since 1996, said he has never felt as though Berry has been non-compliant with Title IX, describing Berry instead as a leader in the field. At a time when intercollegiate varsity women's sports were stigmatized and unprioritized, women at the "Martha Berry School for Girls" took physical education classes, and Martha Berry included a gymnasium in her plans for the Ford Complex.

According to Deaton, Martha Berry's progressive imagination pushed the college to support women's success in sports in the early years of Title IX.

"From the very beginning, [the] first women's teams were very successful on the national level because we were the first ones that pursued it equally with the men," Deaton said.

Out of the eight national championships the college has won, seven have been by all-female teams. In 1976, four years after Title IX was passed, Berry's women's basketball team won the college's first national championship.

Connie Guinn (84C) began playing for Berry soon afterwards, and the Vikings placed fourth in the national tournament in 1981. Guinn said during her time playing in the Ford Gym, both men's and women's basketball received large community and student support.

"Berry's women's basketball has always been a staple in that area," Guinn said. "Whenever a team would beat us, it was

like, they won a championship. That's how reputable our name was, the 'Lady Vikings.'"

Guinn went on to coach the team from 1987-97, and she said that during that time the men's and women's teams had equal funding.

Assistant Director of Athletics for Sports Medicine Ginger Swann (93C) played tennis at Berry in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Swann said that athletic training was a male-dominated environment at Berry during that time, as both a student and staff member working in athletic training, yet she received strong support from Bob Pearson, a long-time Berry athletic director.

Swann said that when the head athletic training position came open when she was a graduate assistant, Pearson encouraged her to apply.

As a young female coach in the late 1980s and early 1990s, Burleigh said she also always felt genuinely supported by Pearson, the namesake for the Vikings' soccer fields. While he pushed for the Vikings to hire a female head coach, Burleigh said she never felt like a token of progress.

After going on to start the women's soccer program at the University of Florida, where she also led the team to a national championship within five years of its existence, Burleigh was supported by visionary Athletic Director Jereny Foley and then-Senior Woman Administrator Ann Marie Rogers.

Burleigh said her age and inexperience probably made her less threatening to her

male counterparts initially. While losing that up-and-comer status could sometimes change external reception, her institutions remained supportive even as soccer coaching continued to be male-dominated.

"I think as often as you see people who are like, 'oh man, I can't believe I just lost to a woman,' there's just as many people who are trying to help you along the way," Burleigh said.

Kathy Insel Brown, one of the players on Burleigh's 1993 championship team, is now in her fourth season as head coach of the women's soccer program. She said that until playing under Burleigh, she never had a female coach or considered coaching as a career. Burleigh credited her high school coach with inspiring her in a similar way.

Insel Brown said she still experiences some of the same moments that Burleigh described in the 1990s, such as referees or waiters assuming her male assistant coach is head coach of the Vikings. Insel Brown believes the type of ignorance she faces is a reflection of larger, infused gender biases that are still in place today. Insel Brown said men still dominate the field of soccer-coaching, and sometimes she is the first female coach that one of her players has had.

Collegiate coaching is dominated by men. Men are apt to coach both men's and women's sports. However, according to Insel Brown, seeing a woman as a head coach of a male sports team is an oddity.

# Every baseball fan should know the Negro Leagues

**ROHAN RAMAN**  
STAFF WRITER

*Editor's Note: The language used to describe many of the organizations and events contained in this article reflects the rhetoric of its time. It is not the intent of the author, editor or the Technique to be insensitive or offensive, but merely to accurately describe the history contained in this piece.*

Across every major league baseball park in America, there is one retired number that always hangs in the rafters, honoring the legacy of one of the most famous athletes in American history.

42, worn by Jackie Robinson. For decades, the MLB has broadcasted Robinson's story in the name of racial equality. However, the league recently acknowledged its role in the ideological and physical destruction of the Negro League (NL) — the league that recruited and developed Robinson.

The first African American player on a professional baseball team was actually Bud Fowler in 1872. He was so talented that despite racial and social beliefs during his time, he played on all-white teams. However, he had to move around the country to play in different organized leagues due to racial tensions and poor team finances.

Enter Rube Foster, a Black pitcher who traveled across the country to play in spite of rules barring him from the professional level. He negotiated a deal for the Chicago American Giants to play at South Side Park as the first professional Black baseball team. The Giants were joined by new teams seven years later as Foster and his fellow owners organized the Negro National League (NNL) in 1920. By 1921, they were drawing crowds of 200,000 spectators.

Even though the NNL could not survive the Great Depres-

sion, the league was revitalized in 1933 as the Negro American League (NAL) with a new concept: the East-West All-Star Game. Throughout the thirties and forties, spectators showed up in hordes to watch some of the best baseball players in the nation.

Robinson was far from the only star — he was not even the consensus best player. Pitcher Satchel Paige's dominance on the mound and catcher Josh Gibson's powerful bat rivaled Robinson's speed as a baserunner and shortstop. Center fielder "Cool Papa" Bell, center fielder Oscar Charleston, outfielder Monte Irvin, pitcher Martin Dihigo, first baseman Buck Leonard — all of these players made it to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1972.

Despite their inclusion in the Hall of Fame, the accomplishments of the players and teams in the NAL were not always recognized. In the late 1960s, the Special Baseball Records Committee excluded recognition of the Negro Leagues as major league caliber. Yet, in 1942, the crowds at NAL games numbered in the millions. In December 2020, MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred announced that the seven Negro Leagues would be receiving Major League Status — 100 years after the first Black baseball league was founded.

Baseball-Reference, the largest baseball statistics page, added data from the NL into their records in 2021. Fowler was only named to the Hall of Fame in 2022. Furthermore, FanGraphs, a modernized version of Baseball Reference with in-depth statistics, added data on Feb. 14 of this year. In a sport as statistics-driven as baseball, the omission of these numbers denied these players of another metric to display their greatness.

An example of this is Paige. In his youth, his fastball was a powerful rocket that could be launched from nearly any angle.



Photo courtesy of Mark Rucker via Getty Images

The Pittsburgh Crawfords pictured in 1932. Satchel Paige (second from left, back row), Josh Gibson (right of Paige) and Oscar Charleston (far right) are each 1972 Hall of Fame inductees.

He worked a hesitation into his delivery that drove batters crazy as they attempted to guess when he would release it.

In an act of competitive perversity, he struck out a batter who claimed Paige had no curveball, using only curveballs. At the age of 42, he finally made his MLB debut. He pitched three complete MLB games without a relief pitcher, garnered a 2.48 earned-run-average (ERA) and won a World Series. In short, his technique and approach to pitching belonged in a different era.

Yet, up until 2021, he only had a career win above replacement (WAR) of 7.3. With the new data, his career WAR is estimated at 43.6 on Baseball Reference and 43.6 on FanGraphs. This ranks him in the top 100 pitchers ever.

The appearance of Paige and Robinson in the MLB marked

the end of the NL. Two of the NL's most marketable stars left the league for the opportunities and recognition afforded by the MLB's bigger budget, larger audience and greater recognizability. NL owners began to sell their teams in 1948 and the league officially folded in 1960, seeing their crowds dwindle and their players decline in quality as more and more left for "the majors." Yet, if the NL had been able to develop within the MLB, the talent of Black baseball players would have been officially and culturally recognized from the very beginnings of professional baseball.

Ultimately, it is good that this longstanding and purposeful oversight is being corrected. However, it is important to remember the calculated effort made to remove these players' statistics from baseball discourse. The MLB

made the decision to keep the NL separate, poached their best players once they saw their talent, watched the wild popularity of the league fade and took decades to honor the statistical performances of some of the best baseball players ever purely because they came from the NL.

Today, the MLB makes retro jerseys of NL teams and fans can play with those teams in the MLB's official video game, MLB: The Show. They attempt to portray the league as integral to baseball history when they worked so hard to separate it from that same history.

It is up to baseball fans to remember the talent and perseverance of members of the seven Negro Leagues, and it is up to the leagues today to honor their legacy and contributions to the sport.

**Best  
Sports  
Story  
1st Place  
Group II**

**Rohan  
Raman**

*The  
Technique*

Georgia Institute  
of Technology

# Best Entertainment Feature

3rd Place Group I

Lainey Pettit  
*The Cluster*  
 Mercer University

## Games

By Lainey Pettit, Game Designer

### Lion's Labyrinth!



WOMQZPGNPIRCELIJOYHUNYYEB  
 EIQWYCHAPEDGLXLLYWTQABBNW  
 IMXGZLCOGOMGWANSONGUEMPA  
 CCELEFFERISEACNEWBEDEOROYN  
 AODLNKTGDOQLSYMMMEWLJLZGZS  
 MM000BMTAANBJFHSPQAUEEDEF  
 BMUQPOIAQVAIZZLZLDLEFOQA  
 FODAMNHINEIMLLXOVBYXLIJDE  
 JINEJRAMGBBMSCYWPTAMAAJJB  
 LSRXMRSHKPAWHLPKCDTOICER  
 YEMGMXEQYSDBOOXYJERYTURPE  
 XSIIJIWINNBJHCVUZRRZDKHITAB  
 OELZZGOJDSYYSOMSKNMDWHY  
 TWKGEWHOFACDSKCEZLOHQXP  
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 SLIIFFYSESTDEASZHBXQFLLPAM  
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 EILYEDWTAUIFACBCKXLJWN  
 WMDBZAUUCUCUFBELXJJIENEZ  
 ACABPZMUEARIJAWRNMXQIARX  
 RHGSVEUTCENZYBAAGAAXLYTFOG  
 UZMQJIIIPSWLCHLIPREUSNWS  
 ROICJABKRMXVEOKEXUYEEDTGR  
 SMITHTWIIITAMSDEWHCEWIBYIW  
 CEMVEZPGSUVGSPBMSLRUUNUM

### Sudoku— Piedmont Edition

		O				M		T
P		I	E	T				D
			I			P	U	
				O	E		D	M
	O	E	D		M	T	N	
M	D		U	I				
	T	N			D			
I				U	T	D		N
D	U				E			

HOW TO PLAY: Each 9-spaced row, column, and square must be filled out with the letters P, I, E, D, M, O, N, T, and U without repeating any letters within the row, column, or square.

Still searching? Here are the solutions from last edition!

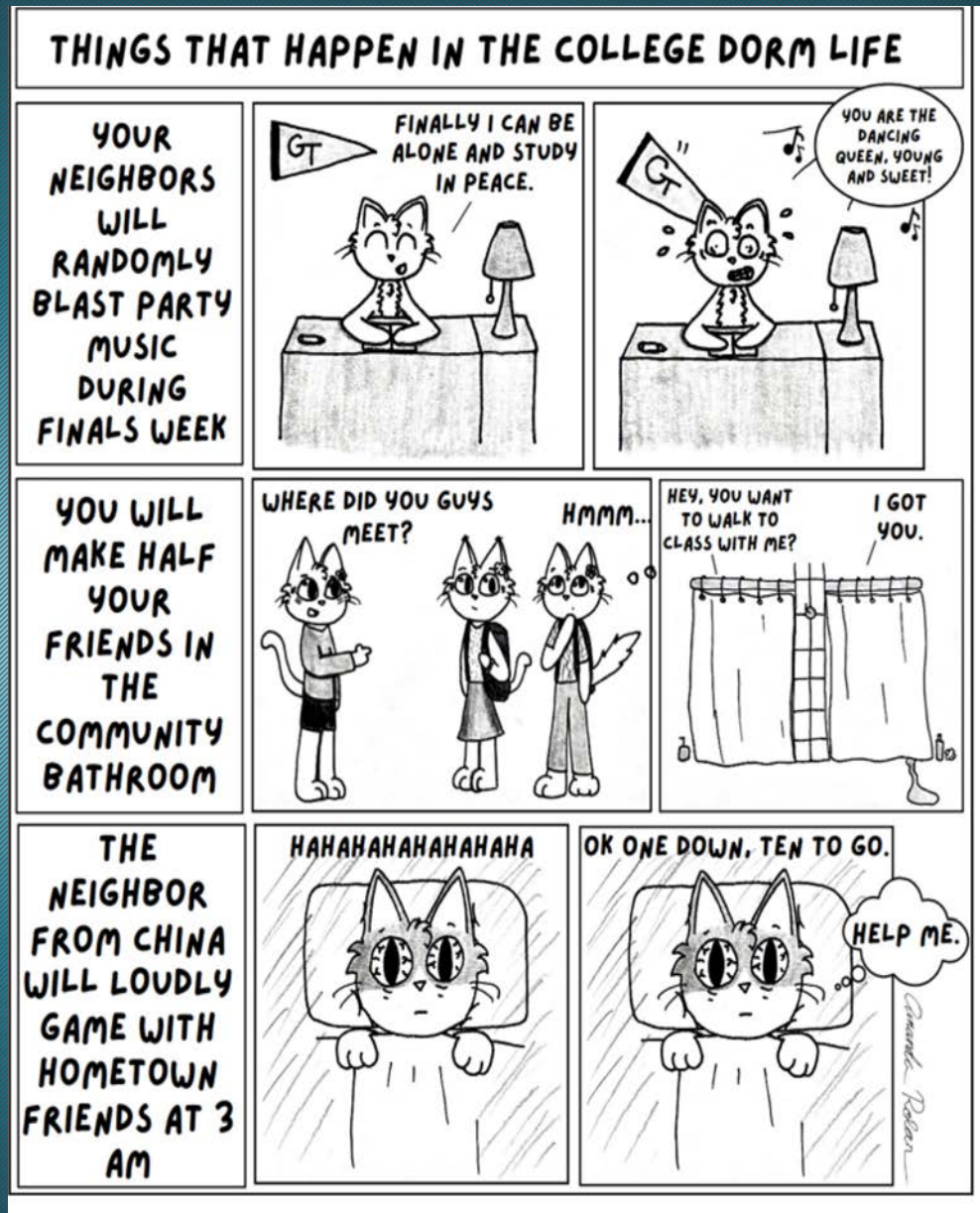
# Best Entertainment Feature

2nd Place  
Group I

## Amanda Rolan

*The Technique*

Georgia Institute of  
Technology



# Best Entertainment Feature

1st Place Group I

# Camille Schmied and Emma Reynolds

*Campus Carrier*  
Berry College

## Sheep Herding Demonstration

Emma Reynolds | CAMPUS CARRIER

Camille Schmied | CAMPUS CARRIER

As a part of Agriculture Week, a week of appreciation to celebrate all farmers and employees of the agriculture industry, Block-n-Bridge hosted Red Creek Farm's herding demonstration in the Clara Bowl. Three trained border collies herded sheep and ducks across the grass and through obstacles. This week's CE Credit event was full of fun animals, entertainment, and an opportunity to learn more about how border collies can be used to harmlessly herd animals.



Carol Anne Bailey, the border collies' trainer and ring leader of the herding demonstration, uses tools such as a whistle to instruct and guide the herding dogs.



Berry students join in on the sheep herding demonstration.





"Your Interests, Your Voice, Your Newspaper."

**Lifestyles**

August 31, 2023

## Pet Spotlight



- Mushroom the Cat by  
Julia Ryland



- Izzy the Dog by  
Emily Groat



- Conway Kitty by  
Carson Carter



- Calvin the Cow by  
Laura Wiley

**Best  
Entertainment  
Feature**  
3rd Place  
Group II

**Delaney Garcia**  
*The Stallion*  
Abraham Baldwin Agricultural  
College

# Best Entertainment Feature

## 2nd Place Group II

# Katelynn Singleton and Sam Askew

## Campus Carrier

### Berry College

### The Tomb of the Unkown Soldier: Remebering those lost

Sam Askew  
managing editor  
Katelynn Singleton  
editor in chief

On Monday, the Spires at Berry College hosted the Rome Exchange Club's replica of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is a monument honoring all unidentified American soldiers who have died at war. It was erected in 1921 and the replica, made of wood, was built in 2021 for the 100-year anniversary of the original Tomb's construction.

The replica was created in Rome by Burkhalter Construction, and was painted, engraved and sculpted by Rome artist, Chuck Schmidt. The replica is half scale compared to the original, which is constructed of 56 tons of marble from Colorado.

Mike Elliot is a Volunteer Field Representative with the Rome Exchange Club. He outlined the four parts of the Club: Americanism, which had the idea for the replica, Working with Seniors, Youth Programs, and a national project to prevent child abuse.

"[The] Americanism committee met a couple years ago and said, 'Let's do a tomb for the 100th anniversary,'" Elliot said.

One of the members of the Exchange Club, Phillip Burkhalter, took on the task of building the replica.

"One of the things [the builder] said was 'Who's gonna move it?' and we said 'Four old men,' so he put wheels inside," Elliot said.

So far, the replica has been to 38 states.

"We're hoping that [visitors of the replica] understand why they have the freedom they have and the cost that it cost us and that they appreciate what our veterans have done and what the people in the armed forces have done," Elliot said.

The real Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is guarded 24 hours a day and 365 days a year. Guards, called Sentinels, go through 9 months of training and must come from the Third Infantry, the oldest active-duty unit in the U.S. Army.

Sentinels are issued the "Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Guard Identification Badge," which is the third least-awarded badge in the United States Army. Only 688 individuals have earned it. The badge features the same figures as are on the East side of the Tomb: the figures of Peace, Valor and Victory. The badge also includes an inverted wreath as a sign of mourning.

Larry Cooper, a former Sentinel who holds badge number 58, attends some of the replica showcases.

Cooper's first time on the Sentinel mat was February 1967 during the 7 a.m. Changing of the Guard ceremony.

"We're just paying respect to these unknowns that've given it all," Cooper said. "It was an experience every time I went up there. I've figured roughly I was up there 1000 times, and the last time was just as fascinating as the first."

Sentinels always stand watch, regardless of the weather or time of day. During the Summer, guards are changed every 30 minutes, and every hour during the winter. The guards have specific uniforms depending on the weather, but Cooper has experienced his fair share of sudden weather changes.

"My mom and dad only came up one time, on a Saturday, and they got lost and they got there at the last guard change," Cooper said. "This Saturday, it's humid, hot, and I was on the mat at 6 o'clock guard change and I just happened to look out and I saw my mom and dad up on the sidewalk. [The relief commander] goes through the procedure of guard change, and he says 'Post,' and there was a crack of thunder that just rattled the whole area. [Because of the rain] everybody got wet, and I stayed up there an hour on the mat in my dress blues. All my clothes underneath were blue when I went downstairs."

Sentinels must work three out of five days in a nine day period: if a guard works on the first, third and fifth day, he

gets the next four days off. Cooper said this was a change from when he was a Guard.

"We were on 26 hours and 48 hours off for my whole time. Every third day you worked," Cooper said.

When visiting the Tomb, it is important for tourists to respect the railings, chains and Sentinels. If you don't you can expect to be reprimanded by the Sentinel on post. Many visitors to the Tomb come to remember their own family members who have gone missing, so it's important to maintain a respectful attitude.

"It's a sacred place. It's humbling to see how some people come up there and kneel and pray," Cooper said.

To mirror the highest military honor, the 21-gun salute, the number 21 is incorporated into everything. Guards walk 21 steps in front of the tomb, wait 21 seconds, then turn and walk 21 steps back across and repeat until the Changing of the Guard Ceremony.

Guards are expected to maintain the same attitude that visitors do.

"What would get you is a little boy'll come up, and not meaning to, but [he'll say] 'Mommy he looks like our military.' Something like that to me was funny, but you better not dare laugh or especially not get caught grinning," Cooper said.

The main tomb holds the World War I unknown soldier and the three crypts in front hold unknown soldiers from World War II and Korea. The crypt in the center previously held an unknown Vietnam soldier, although he was identified in 1994 and removed for his family to bury him. Because of DNA testing, it is unlikely that any other unknown soldiers will be buried at the tomb.

"I hope that they [visitors to the Tomb] remember that there are soldiers and Navy men and Marines who fought these battles and a lot of them didn't come back," Cooper said. "Those unknowns represent all branches of service, throughout the years back to the beginning."

One of the things [the builder] said was 'Who's gonna move it?' and we said 'Four old men,' so he put wheels inside.

Mike Elliot



Katelynn Singleton | CAMPUS CARRIER  
Larry Cooper holds his Honor Guard badge. Cooper served as a Sentinel from February 1967 to April 1968.



Katelynn Singleton | CAMPUS CARRIER  
Mike Elliot gives a tour of the Tomb Replica to Spires residents on Monday. The Rome Exchange Club, as part of its Americanism committee, created the replica Tomb for the centennial anniversary of the Tomb in Arlington National Cemetery.



Katelynn Singleton | CAMPUS CARRIER  
A miniature of the USS Olympia. The Olympia brought the World War I unknown back to the United States from France.



Katelynn Singleton | CAMPUS CARRIER  
The Replica Tomb is half scale of the original. The three crypts can be seen along the bottom. From left to right they represent the unknowns of World War II, the Vietnam war and the Korean war. Of the four, the Vietnam crypt is the only one that is empty.



# Best Entertainment Feature

1st Place  
Group II

# Avni Trivedi

*The Red & Black*  
University of Georgia

FEATURED

## Who wore what: The fashion at AthFest

Avni Trivedi | Jun 27, 2023 Updated Jul 12, 2023 | 3 min to read



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# Best Entertainment Story

## 3rd Place Group I

# Tai Goodman

## *The Stallion*

### Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

## Opinions

Stephen Kardamis  
Editor



February 22, 2023

## Trailer Park Boys: Be Unfiltered

Tai Goodman  
Staff Writer

The sitcom is one of the most popular genres of TV show out there. It's made up of some of the most memorable programs to date. Everyone knows "Friends" and "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" in this day and age. Shows like these have garnered critical acclaim, but for each of them, they all kind of feel identical.

A popular subgenre of sitcom is the mockumentary, which spawned hits like "The Office," "Parks and Recreation," and "Brooklyn Nine-Nine." They're more untinged, don't stick to a general set for the scenes, and censor any serious profanity. I've seen all three, but there's something still missing. It was only when I watched "Trailer Park Boys" when I realized how a truly funny TV show is made: by unfiltering it.

"Trailer Park Boys" is set in Sunnyvale Trailer Park, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. Shortly after being released from prison and agreeing to be in a documentary about getting back on his feet, protagonist Julian tries to settle for a regular life. Unfortunately, his ex-partner-in-crime, Ricky, whose intelligence and common sense are both lacking, comes by and ropes him back into crime in the name of money. These two get back together and their wholesome, cat-loving, big-eyed friend Bubbles also joins in on the fun.

What kind of fun? Primarily: growing, selling, and finding ridiculous ways to distribute marijuana. Other times, get-rich-quick stunts that are equally as illegal (selling stolen meat, cigarettes, and even model trains).

This helps craft something that sets "Trailer Park Boys" away from the competition: the whole show is built on crime, because illegal activity never stops. There are no good guys in terms of their record, and everybody in the show does



Screenshot from Trailer Park Boys. Via Showcast

at least one stupid thing. This ranges from mistaking a friend for Bigfoot and whacking them with bats, to framing corrupt cops by intoxicating and injuring an old man on video. No wonder it has a TV-MA rating. The other reasons for it are truckloads of unmeasured profanity, violence, and mature subjects. Even then, "Trailer Park Boys" doesn't turn sour, get too gruesome, or get offensive. It's crude in the name of laugh-out-loud comedy.

Another thing that helps "Trailer Park Boys" is how obviously low-budget and cut-and-dry it is. "Trailer Park Boys" is very realistic and the only real visible editing you see with your eyes is when it cuts between shots.

The fact that this is a mockumentary also plays into this factor, as characters repeatedly reference the camera crew. For example, while Ricky's struggling to steal a lawnmower, the boom operator is visibly in the shot doing his job. Ricky gets annoyed, steals the mic, and screams, "Hey... Can you hear me? I need a hand in here!" into it. Other times, it's things like when characters are asking why they're on the television, or when the cameraman jumps out of the way of an erratic driver's path.

"Trailer Park Boys" also packs a good

bit of action into it — specifically, gunfights. Nobody necessarily dies in these fights, despite the extreme level of aggression, but sometimes characters do get slightly injured. For the crime-theme, it really fits, and it also makes you snicker every time Ricky gets hit and screams, "Argh, I'm shot!" You don't see much of any fighting or action in any other sitcom, but "Trailer Park Boys" scratches that itch.

When it comes to being an actual sitcom, somehow all of this makes the show shine brighter, even though it's like adding grease to a fire. This mature tone and content doesn't get in the way of anything. It's a sitcom at heart, that's the most important thing.

Running gags are where it shines the brightest — it's no sitcom if there aren't any. All characters have some attribute that gives other characters ideas for insults. Randy, the assistant trailer park supervisor, has a beer gut and never wears a shirt, and people constantly joke about how he scarfed down a bunch of cheeseburgers once. On the other hand, you have people like Corey and Trevor, who are goons of Julian's group, but also get blamed for practically everything — even if they weren't on the scene. If it's any character though, it's Ricky

that will make you laugh the most. Due to his low intelligence, Ricky mispronounces a lot of words, falls over constantly, demands cigarettes from everybody he meets, and acts impulsively more than using common sense. If a dog is disrupting everybody's sleep in the neighborhood, what would your first move be? Ricky's answer is blasting a handgun into the air with no regard for anybody else.

In the end though, there is no show as untinged or unfiltered as this. Each season of "Trailer Park Boys" serves as its own plotline, usually ending with someone going to jail. This is contrary to most sitcoms that have a plot per episode. It's also worth noting that "Trailer Park Boys" isn't very long. Across its twelve seasons, there are only 105 episodes in total, each lasting around twenty minutes each, presenting some binge-watchability.

"Trailer Park Boys" is quick, dirty and funny, and we need more shows like it. Of course, there needs to be some attention paid to things like how to utilize realism, a low-budget, and how to refrain from being offensive while letting on everything possible. If all of this is done, perhaps a spiritual successor or something way better could be made.

Every other sitcom I've watched was scripted to the point where I didn't laugh as hard as I did with such natural, slapstick humor I saw in a show about an alcoholic, an idiot, and a tinkerer running a drug racket. The real hard laughs come from things that aren't restrained.

# Best Entertainment Story

## 2nd Place Group I

# Nahomi Solorzano

*The Roar*  
Piedmont University

### RoarTV You Are Live On, 3, 2, 1!

Nahomi Solorzano, Staff Writer  
October 10, 2023

The spotlight is on the new broadcasting club under the umbrella of Roar Student Media.

Piedmont University had a broadcasting club, but it stopped and was never started again. Until sophomore Carlie Crane took the reins and started the new broadcasting club.

"RoarTV is a news, sports and entertainment broadcasting club where students can learn and practice broadcasting and entertainment skills," said Crane.

Her inspiration to launch this club stemmed from her high school audio and video tech teacher, Kyle Rolader. The class produced a weekly broadcast, and Crane could not let go of the memory of deciding to start RoarTV. "I can't wait to see other students passionate about this club and creating a new and hopefully long-lasting piece of the mass communications department," said Crane.

They will be broadcasting episodes covering the three components of Piedmont news, sports, and entertainment. The first episode will air on Oct. 13 and will be available on the RoarTV YouTube channel. You can locate the channel by going into Instagram @theroartv and clicking on the bio where the YouTube link is located. RoarTV will give the opportunity to students to work in those three sections, each section will have a group of students to create content for their designated group.

"I am most excited to start something new here at Piedmont University," Crane said. It is the start of something, and there is still a chance to join if you are interested.



The logo for RoarTV

Instagram: <https://instagram.com/theroartv?igshid=MzRIODBiNWFlZA==>

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BREAKING NEWS: Look Down, "SAVE GAZA"  
February 20, 2024



# Best Entertainment Story 1st Place Group I

## Kylie Bacot

*The George-Anne  
Inkwell*

Georgia Southern University  
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## Faces of Armstrong: Drew Foley

Kylie Bacot, Staff Writer | March 28, 2023



# Best Entertainment Story

3rd Place  
Group II

# Ainslie Smith

*The George-Anne  
Inkwell*

Georgia Southern University  
Armstrong Campus

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## Music Scene

Ainslie Smith, Columnist | March 9, 2023

Chris Mitchell taught Otis Redding's grandson how to play "the Dock of the Bay," and his product, Devilcat amplifiers, was used in Garth Brooks' first performance at Notre Dame. He may not be the most interesting man in the world, but he could be a shoo-in for the Bulloch County title.

Mitchell is the musician and self-described serial entrepreneur behind Statesboro's own [Pladd Dot Music](#). Mitchell is a Georgia Southern alum who grew up in Hagan, Ga., where his music and family life were closely intertwined.

Notably, his mother, aunt, brother and sister ignited his own passion for music. At 12 years old, he became interested in playing the guitar, and at 14, Mitchell says that he started taking it more seriously, practicing persistently and "never looking back".



Ainslie Smith

Chris Mitchell holding a CMG guitar next to a Devilcat amplifier inside of his store in downtown Statesboro.



### Growing up: Glam to Grunge

Reminiscing on his musical journey in a recent interview, Mitchell described what it was like to grow up during a time when Van Halen, Eric Clapton and Stevie Ray Vaughan were making popular radio hits. In



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# Best Entertainment Story

2nd Place  
Group II

## Nava Rawls

*The Red & Black*  
University of Georgia



# Best Entertainment Story

1st Place  
Group II

# Navya Shukla

*The Red & Black*  
University of Georgia

FEATURED

## 'ArtGirl' brings emotionally charged portraits to Athens art scene

Navya Shukla Oct 24, 2023 Updated Oct 26, 2023



Kristan Ryan looks through a painted window pane in front of the Athens-Clarke County courthouse in Athens, Georgia on Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2023. Ryan brought this window pane herself and encouraged passers by to express themselves on it however they wanted. (Photo/Navya Shukla)

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### "Art is a form of freedom"

The United States has the highest incarceration rate in the world. More than 2 million people are currently behind bars in this country. In Georgia, 968 out of every 100,000 people are in prison, jail, immigration detention, and juvenile justice facilities. In the age of mass incarceration, what role might the arts play in creating conversations across the carceral divide?

Whitworth Women's Facility is a prison in Hartwell, Georgia. The museum worked with UGA English teachers and students and Common Good Atlanta to bring works of art from our collection into classrooms there. Incarcerated women at the prison then selected the works in this exhibition and wrote prose and poetry in response to them.

Common Good Atlanta provides people who are incarcerated or formerly incarcerated with access to higher education by connecting Georgia's colleges and professors with Georgia's prison classrooms. In 2022, students in Dr. Catherine Young's UGA English course studied the museum's collection through close looking, and developed art response kits for over 142 objects to share with the incarcerated women at Whitworth Women's Common Good classes at the prison.

This project is a collaboration between the Georgia Museum of Art, the University of Georgia, and the Georgia Department of Corrections. Special thanks to Caroline Davis, and the Georgia Department of Corrections, Special Thanks to Caroline Davis, and the Georgia Department of Corrections, Special Thanks to Caroline Davis, and the Georgia Department of Corrections, Special Thanks to Caroline Davis.

Colleges with mirrors on display in the exhibit. TELLIE ROBERTS/CONTRIBUTOR. A visitor looks at the 'Art is a form of freedom' exhibit at the Georgia Museum of Art. TELLIE ROBERTS/CONTRIBUTOR

## Freedom in expression Incarcerated women collaborate on Georgia Museum of Art exhibition

Allison Mawn

Words emblazoned on a wall of the Georgia Museum of Art read, "People question if art is related to freedom. I personally believe that art is a form of freedom. Freedom as in you are free to express what or how you're feeling. You can make what you believe to be beautiful, even if it's not beautiful to anybody else."

The inscription is part of the "Art is a form of freedom" exhibition, a collection of pieces already belonging to the museum, accompanied with prose and poetry by approximately 23 anonymous women incarcerated at Whitworth Women's Facility in Hartwell, Georgia.

The project has given the incarcerated women a new platform to express themselves and has created an ongoing conversation between the incarcerated, the university and others in the community. The works and written responses highlight themes of identity, motherhood, incarceration, home, childhood, social issues and mystery. The exhibit is the result of collaboration between CMOA, multiple departments at the University of Georgia, the Georgia Department of Corrections and Common Good Atlanta, a group that provides access to higher education to currently and formerly incarcerated people by connecting Georgia's colleges and prisons.

"Worked together, the art and writing offer new ways to understand the far-reaching impacts of arts access and higher education in the carceral system," the exhibit's description reads.

**This is how art liberates us; it carries what we need to express.**

Caroline Young | Lecturer, UGA English department

### Community collaboration

"The project was born from the work of Caroline Young, a lecturer in the UGA English department. Students in Young's classes worked with Callan Rottmann, CMOA's associate curator of education, to develop art kits to share with the women at Whitworth. As part of their Common Good classes, the incarcerated women discussed, reflected on and wrote about the pieces, several of which made it into the final exhibition.

"I really saw this potential of having communities work with each other across time and space," Young said. Young has volunteered with Common Good Atlanta since 2017. Her combination of art and incarcerated people's writing began with a poetry class she taught at the Georgia Institute of Technology where she created an exhibition similar to "Art is a form of freedom" based on poetry from incarcerated men.

Once Young came to UGA, she began a class called Wit-

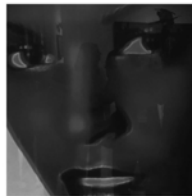
ness for Social Justice in which she sought to bring her collaborative efforts to life once more through her students, Common Good Atlanta and CMOA. This effort has been in progress since December 2018.

"We do a lot of collaborative projects with UGA courses and professors and students and members of the community, but we're not always able to have an exhibition that comes out of those projects. So it was really nice to be able to do that in this case," Rottmann said.

### Art for everyone

The art itself is as varied as the women who participated in the project — there are paintings, sculptures and prints, artists from a variety of countries and socioeconomic backgrounds and a range of subject matters. Katie Landers, a former CMOA intern, helped Young narrow down the list of possible works to focus on pieces that are underrepresented in the museum's permanent collection.

Each piece is accompanied by multiple written responses from the participants. Due to efforts to minimize harm and in accordance with the Georgia Department of Corrections' only request for the project, the women's names were not included in the exhibition.



"The Blue Lady" by Anala Anani. TELLIE ROBERTS/CONTRIBUTOR

One piece is accompanied by a letter written as a group from the women to the exhibition visitors. It invites people to "allow the feelings to flow as you walk in our shoes and embark on our journey."

The letter accompanies a piece titled "The Blue Lady," which, according to Young, all of the women agreed to include. The photograph is a close-up of a woman's face in dark blue lighting, her eyes looking to the side and her lips parted. When no one could find the right words for a response to the piece, the group collaborated on a letter. Incarcerated people do not typically have access to me-

asums or art, according to a CMOA press release. According to the exhibition, more than 2 million Americans are incarcerated, and in Georgia, 968 out of every 100,000 people are incarcerated.

In order to make the art accessible to the women at Whitworth, Young's students created cards for each piece of work. One side showed an image of the work, and the other side included information about the work, the artist, historical context, writing prompts and a UGA student's testimony on why they liked the piece.

According to Rottmann, CMOA's informal slogan, "Art for everyone," rings true through the project.

Besides the women's written responses, the exhibition also includes site pieces to women from Whitworth. "The Mirror Project" invited the women at Whitworth to consider the idea of reflection and create collages around mirrors from the prison community.

"The Mirror Project" was a way of letting them create something that became their own signature in the absence of language," Young said.

The site included space, not all the art that the women responded to was included in the exhibition. CMOA has created a booklet compiling all the works of art and responses for visitors to explore.

The exhibit invites museum visitors to engage with the idea of freedom. There is a section that provides pencil, paper and a piece to write responses to the question, "What does freedom look like to you?"

Young said that this was another way for the exhibition to bring conversation to life.

"What I love about the exhibition is that it uses art as a point of departure for us to connect with each other," Rottmann said.

### Experience the exhibit

At the heart of all this lies Young's passion for helping people reflect and discover who they are, her love for teaching and bringing higher education to incarcerated people, and her appreciation for all those who have helped in bringing this collaboration to life.

"I dropped back into Whitworth Women's Facility and all the pieces of my life fell into place," Young said. "It's like breathing in that space is using all of the best experience and skills that I have to offer."

The exhibition will be available to view through July 2, but Young's work will not stop there. Currently, she has three UGA classes with 36 students that are creating written and video responses to the exhibition. She plans to then have her summer classes take these reviews, as well as responses from the audience participation sections, and create a film capturing the full experience of the exhibition, which will be shown to the women at Whitworth.

"This is how art liberates us; it carries what we need to express," Young said.

Throughout the exhibition's time at CMOA, there will be multiple supplementary events. On April 11 at 10:30 p.m., CMOA's auditorium, 19 Common Good alum will read the work of the Whitworth women who can't be there to read it themselves.

# Best Feature Story

## 3rd Place Group I

# Allison Mawn

## The Red & Black University of Georgia

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# Best Feature Story

2nd Place  
Group I

# Paige Kluba

*The Roar*

Piedmont University

## Kicking Cancer: Still's 2023 season 13 years in the making

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[Paige Kluba](#)

November 16, 2023

When the Lady Lions take the pitch, one athlete stands out among her peers. At 32, Ashley Still is definitely not your typical college sophomore. After winning multiple battles against cancer, the striker is ready to take on any opponent on the field.

"Soccer is my happy place," said Still, who finally had the opportunity to play for the Piedmont women's soccer team this season, more than a decade after she was initially recruited.

Still remembers being a young girl looking up to female soccer stars. Legends like Brandi Chastain, who got kicked off the United States Women's National Team, but trained hard and worked her way back onto the team, eventually scoring the winning penalty kick in the 1999 Women's World Cup Final.

"I really liked soccer and the physical aspect of it," said Still.

The challenge and competition within the sport were captivating, and she fell in love with it. Because of her love for soccer and the grind that goes along with it, her drive for success helped her thrive in zealous environments, in turn improving her abilities and confidence.

What she did not expect were the challenges of life to interfere with her hopes and dreams of playing the sport she loved at the collegiate level.

"In my head, I was only thinking Division I," she said, adding that as a competitive high school athlete, she experienced feelings that many students looking to play their sport in college



[Karl Moore](#)

One of Still's media day shots for the Lady Lions has her pointing out her tattoo with the message, "Dear Cancer, We're Breaking Up."

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BREAKING NEWS: Look Down, "SAVE GAZA"

February 20, 2024



Features

## Iasia Sweeting raises awareness for trafficking survivors

Abigail Henderson, Features Editor  
January 24, 2023

The Department of Defense recognizes January as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month in efforts to continue to raise awareness and end crime.






According to the **U.S. Department of Defense (DOD)**, "Human trafficking is a crime in which force, fraud or coercion is used to compel a person to perform labor, services or commercial sex. It affects all populations: adults, children, men, women, foreign nationals and U.S. citizens, and all economic classes."

Psychology major Iasia Sweeting feels that her experience as a survivor of sex slavery has enabled her to understand the importance of fighting for others that have experienced trauma and helping people recover. She says her journey has been one of returning to a place of normalcy while not forgetting the parts of the journey that have been painful.




"It's a part of your beauty, you know, the darkness, the sadness, the healing is a part



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# Best Feature Story

3rd Place  
Group II

# Drew Robertson

*The Cluster*  
Mercer University

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## Remembering Georgia's poet laureate, Mercer alum David Bottoms

*A poet that captured the heart of Georgia and left a mark at Mercer*



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By [Eliza Moore](#) | January 31

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# Best Feature Story

2nd Place  
Group II

# Jabari Gibbs

*The George-Anne  
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Georgia Southern University  
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Dr. Otis Johnson on Pioneering Change and Shaping Savannah's History

Jabari Gibbs, Co-Editor-in-Chief • September 22, 2023



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# Best Feature Story 1st Place Group II

# Jesse Wood The Red & Black University of Georgia



Members of the University of Georgia Spike Squad sing in chorus at the Georgia vs. South Carolina football game at Sanford Stadium in Athens, Georgia, on Sept. 16, 2023. PHOTO: BOB STANLEY

## Saturday with the Spike Squad Sitting front row with the Bulldogs' biggest fans

Jesse Wood

Spikeball paddles, flow paint and hand towels — this is Spike Squad.

The Spike Squad has been a staple of the University of Georgia since its founding in 2010. These die-hard Bulldogs fans bring the energy to every sporting event on campus, but they are most famous for their appearance at football games where they lead the student section's front row in Sanford Stadium.

The Spike Squad usually begins their game day by arriving at the stadium game five hours before kickoff, usually on Thursday, Sept. 14, the day of the University of Georgia's game against the University of South Carolina, was no different. Kick-off that day was set for 7:30 p.m. To pass the time, the crew applied flow paint, ate food and played games while waiting outside.

**Preparing to attack the day**

Alan Tribble, a freshman telecommunications and religion major and Spike Squad member, usually does her bright eye-catching look to her dorm room. But because of the early wake-up call for the game, she found herself applying it while sitting on the sidewalk.

Tribble said during the 2023 National Championship, her parents encouraged her to join the Spike Squad after seeing the group on television throughout the game. After carrying the Spike Squad flag, she became a member of the group. Tribble portrays "Queen Witch" when she is in the stands.

"I wanted to do a character with red hair," Tribble said.

Highmore senior major Adam Burkler portrays a mad-scientist character he calls the "Mad Scientist" at the game and was in attendance in Los Angeles when the Bulldogs brought home the 2022 National Championship. "Being front row at the Natty was amazing," Burkler said.

The members have the freedom to create any character part of the squad. Senior biological science major Jazmyr Thomas, co-president of the Spike Squad last year, is Lita Red Riding Hood on the sidelines, a character she drew portrayed in a middle school play.

She's creative because using liquid latex, cotton balls and fake blood to create a scary scene has her to add a scary element to her character look.

"I wanted to make it darker, so I added the scar to it," Thomas said. "It fits my personality as well. I played soccer throughout high school and I was known for wearing two bras, so I just pulled that string in my costume."

In contrast, some members approach their appearance with a more light-hearted and humorous attitude, such as member and junior major and psychology major Belle Warren, who dressed up as Port Malibu. The look is complete with a tan hat and sunglasses. Warren's best friend, Travis, shows on social media and a model last year.



Hannah Baker, right, wears an American flag, sets Grace Leathersley's hair, left, before the Georgia vs. South Carolina football game at Sanford Stadium in Athens, Georgia, on Sept. 16, 2023. PHOTO: BOB STANLEY

"I did it the Halloween way then, and people were like 'Who kind of look like her,' and I was like 'I don't know how she managed to do that,' but thank you," Warren said.

**Securing the seats**

The energy among the members grows more and more the closer it gets to the game opening. In order for the Spike Squad to secure their signature front row seats at the games, they must stand in to three "minutes" to sprint through the stadium to reach their seats in section 100.

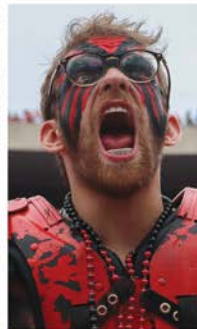
"It's not reserved for us. We have no special treatment or anything," Burkler threw. Spike Squad co-president, and math preceptor assistant major, said. "I don't get down there as fast as you see."

Once the seats have been acquired, the Spike Squad members the two rows and begin the process of changing one another "point up." The Spike Squad is identified not only by their shoulder pads, but by the black paint covering their hands and arms.

"I want to get my pants ready to go in it and the expectation of it's maybe a chaotic overall cheering that might take a little bit longer to do," Burkler said.

Charlie Adams, a sophomore criminal justice major, painted her face to resemble the American flag.

"I am not looking forward to when the crowd is completely full and there's not an empty seat in the house," Burkler said.



Adam Burkler, the "Mad Scientist," cheers during the game against South Carolina at Sanford Stadium in Athens, Georgia, on Sept. 16, 2023. PHOTO: BOB STANLEY

"Last time it rained was Thanksgiving, and that was the last game I've ever been to," Burkler said. "There's just something about the rain. It makes it fun."

Engineer and chemical engineering major Jake Chubb, also known as King Melon on the squad, predicted the rain would benefit the football team in the half-off against South Carolina.

The first two quarters did not take a toll on the Spike Squad's prep. Done with a score deficit of 14-3 at halftime, the group rained with excitement at every play the Bulldogs made and probably were going to generate offense.

The emotion that each member displayed throughout the game, whether it was frustration or elation, played a role in leading the student section's engagement.

When the players returned after halftime, the Spike Squad cheered each of Georgia's three touchdowns that sealed their victory with excitement.

One of the Spike Squad's main traditions is to do push-ups on the wall separating the stands from the hedge for every point scored by the Bulldogs.

"I don't have to go to the gym the next day," Burkler said.

**Spike Squad's impact**

After a full game of delivering maximum energy, the Spike Squad was finally able to take off their pads and sit down once the game ended in a Georgia victory. They remained in the stands to take pictures with young fans and to reup the gear with one another.

The Spike Squad not only brings energy to sporting events, but they have also put efforts into giving back to the community with the addition of their first philanthropy chair, Jack Thomas Brown, a junior history and political science major, is recognizable in the stands with a get-up resembling Kirby Brown, the head coach of the USA Football team.

"We tend to hope that we live in Athens, not just USA," Burkler said. "I would like to leave Athens, Georgia a better place than we found it because they give us much to do."

Spike Squad works with Bulldogs Battling Breast Cancer to coordinate their annual pink-out, complete with pink pads and body paint. The signature pink pads are maintained off and on of the proceeds go back to Bulldogs Battling Breast Cancer.

Additionally, the Spike Squad will attend events for Kappa Kappa Psi, Delta Omicron and Band with Malibu, as well as visit local elementary schools to spend time with Adams youth.

At the end of the day, Burkler says Spike Squad is more than a club — it's a family.

"If you look around, there are my best friends," Burkler said. "These people will be at your wedding."

## Our View: Avoiding misinformation is a critical skill

In the world of modern technology, we have just about every piece of information we could ever want with the tap of a button. A quick Google search can bring you hundreds of thousands of results in less than a second. News reaches us faster than ever, and we can learn about something happening on the other side of the globe as it is unfolding.

Such a great tool can be problematic, though. Anyone can post anything on the internet when it pleases them, which means that false information can spread like a wildfire. Social media is a big propagator of this – you can post a little snippet of information on your story, and there are plenty of people who will assume that snippet is absolutely correct without conducting further research.

We saw this issue with the Israel and Palestine conflict recently. Fake information and photographs alongside propaganda seem to be everywhere. This “information” tends to feed into the rage and fear people are already feeling, and it makes it really difficult to understand what information is true and what is not. In times like these, it is critical that we each possess the ability to avoid misinformation and seek out reliable news sources.

It is so easy to trust something upon first glance when you know little to nothing about an issue. Someone you follow on Instagram reposts a few bullet points of information from another account on their story, and you just assume that information is correct. The easy to digest format of this information makes it easy to glance at it and move on. The problem with this, however, is that it is an incredibly easy way to spread misinformation. If you fail to look further into the topic, you may never find out that what you saw was in fact

false information.

The first step to avoiding misinformation is checking multiple sources – something a lot of people fail to do. If you see information on a current event you do not know a

Social media is a big propagator of this – you can post a little snippet of information on your story, and there are plenty of people who will assume that snippet is absolutely correct without conducting further research.

lot about, verifying that information through other sources is incredibly important. It is something that takes five to 10 minutes at most, and it makes you a better informed citizen. We have so much information available to us through the

internet, so there is absolutely no reason someone should be misinformed because they only read one source on the topic. It’s as simple as that.

Finding and trusting credible news sources is also extremely important in staying well informed. A rant on Facebook from someone’s grandmother should never be taken as reliable information. Sticking to well known news sources that are widely considered reliable will help keep you from falling down the rabbit hole of misinformation. Make sure that you use critical thinking skills when it comes to news sources and determining their reliability – the New York Times is most likely going to be more reliable than a news site that nobody has heard of before.

It is also a good idea to read sources from both political sides. Seeing what both sides are saying and checking with any middle ground sources can help keep your biases in check and help you better understand what is going on. Only reading from one side can build up biases that you are not even aware of, so it is best to make sure that you are reading from a variety of sources and getting the full picture.

With information flying around everywhere all the time, it can certainly be difficult to separate the real from the fake. We all must bear the burden of determining what to trust and what to not. Being a well informed citizen is so important, so do your job and make sure that you know how to find reliable sources and avoid misinformation.

The Carrier’s editorial opinion represents the views of the senior members of the Campus Carrier and Viking Fusion news staff.

## Why the MPA rating system needs to be changed

HEATH HUTCHESON  
staff writer

The MPA Rating System is rarely taken seriously by modern moviegoers. What was initially conceived as a system to tell parents what was and was not suitable for children has now become something often overlooked by them. Why is this exactly? I think it’s due to how vague the rating categories are, how muddy the PG area has become, and how outdated it is now. While I do think it is vital to have a rating system for feature films, I think the current one being used could definitely use some improvements, at least for the sake of practicality.

The system’s modern incarnation follows a seemingly basic and easy to understand structure. If a film is rated G, that means it’s intended for general audiences, or just anybody. If a film is rated PG, that means parental guidance is suggested, so it contains a hint of some adult material, but nothing major. PG-13 means that parental guidance is more strongly suggested, so some material might not be considered suitable for even pre-teens. An R rating means a film contains a strong amount of adult material, and parents must be with their children to see it. NC-17 ratings are given to movies that are strictly for

adults, so nobody under the age of 17 can even be admitted to see them. These ratings all use pretty broad terms if you look into what they’re really referring to. One R rated movie like The Matrix contains very little language, while The Wolf of Wall Street contains over 500 uses of the f word alone and has the same rating. I understand that this system can’t really afford to be too specific, but perhaps some little subtags to go along with certain movie ratings might help in this area a bit, so if a movie is rated R for violence, it could be rated R-V or R-S for sexual content.

So what else is wrong with this system? Well for starters, PG and G are basically seen as the same thing nowadays. For example, what makes a movie like Inside Out require parental guidance, but not Toy Story? The reason given for Inside Out’s PG rating is “some action” as if Toy Story didn’t end with an action packed chase scene with a rocket chasing a moving van. It’s really a no brainer to anybody that any Pixar movie can be watched by general audiences. My point being, the two ratings are practically interchangeable and seem to read to modern audiences as “kids movies”. So, should we

just toss out the PG rating altogether? Maybe. The merge of PG and PG-13 would be difficult to try to get used to again, so perhaps a gradual merge would be better, although I think it would definitely be more practical in the long run. They aren’t the only ratings with problems though.

The R rating brings with it a lot of issues due to its policy of restriction. By not allowing teenagers under the age of seventeen to attend without a parent, that’s not only locking off some potential revenue, but also pretty outdated considering how accessible profanity, violence, and sexual content are on the internet today. A kid under the age of seventeen today has likely already been exposed to that type of content frequently without any parental supervision, so just locking them off from seeing it again in a theater seems a bit odd. The R rating should instead act more as a recommendation than a restriction.

In the end, the rating system for movies will never be a perfect one, given how subjective these types of ratings can be. However, where it stands now, some changes really should be made to it. The system is growing more and more arbitrary by the day it seems, so a revamp is due much sooner than later.

# Best Editorial or Editorial Series

3rd Place Group I

# Anna Rinaggio

Campus Carrier  
Berry College



# Best Editorial or Editorial Series

2nd Place  
Group I

**Bethany  
Rentz**  
*The Stallion*  
Abraham Baldwin  
Agricultural College

## Andrew Tate: “Misogynist King”



*Tate leaving Romanian Court. Image via AP News.*

**BETHANY RENTZ**  
Staff Writer

Known as the “king of misogyny,” popular social media influencer Andrew Tate has taken the internet by storm. Despite multiple accusations of sexual misconduct and physical abuse, Tate has managed to retain his spot as the “Top G” among young boys especially, some of whom see him as a figurative god. His harsh, misogynistic rhetoric has become an increasingly worsening epidemic, the effects of which have been felt by mothers, sisters, and female teachers. After his recent arrest in Romania for alleged sex trafficking, Andrew Tate’s reign may soon be coming to an end.

Andrew Tate, a self-described misogynist, is a 36-year-old former kickboxer and social media personality who started his career on reality television. He rose to popularity online for his brutally “honest” and dangerous views on women — from arguing that all women are bad drivers to blaming victims for being raped.

In an interview with Vice, Tate said, “The point I’m trying to make is the best way to prevent yourself from being raped is to have a degree of personal responsibility and not put yourself in positions to be raped.”

He reportedly relocated to Romania in

the wake of the #MeToo Movement to avoid stringent sexual assault laws.

Tate has successfully drawn in viewers by conflating his lavish lifestyle with masculinity and sexism. A firm believer in stereotypical gender roles, Tate influences his audiences to believe that in behaving like a “Top G” — or by engaging in physical fights, threatening romantic partners with swords, or ignoring feelings and emotions — one can become financially successful and live an equally elaborate lifestyle.

What Tate’s viewers do not seem to grasp — or what they refuse to admit — is that they are being manipulated into an elaborate pyramid scheme. Tate is the founder of “Hustler’s University” (HU), an online “school” which is said to provide the tools that one needs to “become rich” for just \$50 a month. Members most often earn their revenue through affiliate links; when a new member subscribes to HU through another member’s link, that member gets 48% of the new member’s subscription fee. Despite this, Tate ardently denies that he is running a pyramid scheme, and he denies that HU is in any way a scam.

Hustler’s University and the entirety of Andrew Tate’s brand has managed to survive despite evidence and allegations of sexual assault and physical abuse. Not only did a video leak of Tate abusing his ex-girlfriend, but recently voice messages from a 2013

WhatsApp conversation leaked in which Tate tells an ex-partner, “I love raping you... Am I a bad person? Because the more you didn’t like it, the more I enjoyed it. I f-cking enjoyed how much you hated it.” Shortly after this, he described himself as “one of the most dangerous men on this planet.” A police investigation in 2015 resulted in dropped charges four years later due to “an ounce of doubt in the case.”

Andrew Tate was arrested for rape and human trafficking December 29, 2022. Even after his arrest, Tate’s legion of followers, students, and supporters firmly believe, despite the leaked voice recordings, videos, and text messages, that he is innocent, and that authorities are seeking to take him down for speaking the “truth”. His followers are still editing clips of his broadcasts in order to spread his message, even though there are reports that his rhetoric and the vastness of his social media presence has already contributed to a rise in misogyny among young boys.

Andrew Tate’s dangerous influence on young boys has been felt by mothers, sisters, girlfriends, classmates, and educators. A 14-year-old female student who spoke to Vice last year said, “The boys at my school my age think that it’s OK to say horrible things like women are men’s property and they get to do what they want with them. Makes me really disappointed in my

generation.” According to The Guardian, some schools have already implemented training programs for educators to discuss Andrew Tate’s rhetoric with students. In Kentucky, a human-trafficking survivor and educator who spoke with Business Insider heard a young male student say, “We’re the men, so you’re gonna cook and you’re gonna clean... it’s the same mindset my grandpa had — that women take care of us, but we’re gonna control you.”

Even one young boy being affected by Andrew Tate’s violent rhetoric is too many. He appeals to often young, vulnerable, and socially withdrawn or neurodivergent boys, or to those who are without a positive male role model and who thus look to Tate for guidance.

This epidemic of misogyny is widespread among social media, especially as Tate leads his followers to believe they too can enjoy a lavish lifestyle so long as they continue sharing affiliate links for money, which in turn exposes more youth to this language; this is how the disease spreads, but it exists in real life as much as it exists online.

As of early February 2023, Tate remains in Romanian custody while authorities continue their investigation. While several of Tate’s supporters remain firm, his arrest and the recent exposure of his past behavior is a long-awaited step toward ending his reign as the internet’s “Top G.”

# Best Editorial or Editorial Series

1st Place  
Group I

# Cameron Hutchins

*The Cluster*  
Mercer University

COVID-19 CAMPUS NEWS STATE & LOCAL NEWS ARTS & CULTURE SPORTS OPINION ABOUT

OPINION

## OPINION: Despite recent efforts, CAPS is not enough for Mercer students



The new location for Counseling and Psychological Services was formerly the "Honors House" for the University Honors Program. It stands next to Legacy Hall

NOREPLY@newspapercontest.com  
ssexton@weatherforddemocrat.com  
Judge is done judging

popular

ATO apologizes for \$11,410 misappropriated from Camp for a Cause 2022 funds

By Eliza Moore | January 31

UPDATE: ATO alumni fully returns funds from 2022 philanthropy event.

By Henry Keating | February 1

Mercer taps a Lenoir-Rhyne coach again to lead Mercer Football

By Gabriel Kopp | January 25

Mercer club sports add wrestling team

By Isaiah Lyseight | January 27

Athletics announces expanding facilities

By Gabriel Kopp | February 19

Tweets from  
@MercerCluster



# Best Editorial or Editorial Series

3rd Place  
Group II

# Hailey Johnson and Jarrett Ray

*The Roar*  
Piedmont University

## Opinions

### Parking At Piedmont

[Matt Kodrowski](#), Co-Editor-In-Chief  
September 25, 2023

Year after year, The Roar has posted an article on this subject. It isn't a secret at this point. Every student on campus has been affected by this in some manner. We've seen its effects on Instagram pages, YikYak posts, and word-of-mouth conversations. Yes, this sounds like a broken record. Yes, this is repetitive. Yes, you are probably over this conversation by now, but to be fair, so are we. Yes, this is another article about parking.





Let's be honest. 12 o'clock on a weekday at the Commons gets more congested than my sinuses during allergy season. Students pass Loudermilk Field, filled; The Commons, filled; even Wallace Hall is filled. The remaining students have to consider parking all the way in Lot J or pray to whatever deities they believe in that some student will be gracious enough to be leaving at just the right time for you to pull in. Students don't want to park so far away that they have to walk to the cafeteria, of all things. So, where does this issue stem from?



Filled parking spaces at Piedmont University have been an all too familiar sight on campus

Is it the students' unwillingness to consider carpooling or eating at a different time? It's quite possible. but why should that ever be an expectation of us? We can't really change

## TRENDING STORIES

- 1 Piedmont Students Mourn Rev Tim's Disappearance in the New Semester • 993 Views 
- 2 The Montauk Project • 472 Views
- 3 New Restaurant in Town • 316 Views 
- 4 What Happens When We Die? • 174 Views 
- 5 Bermuda Triangle • 83 Views 

## Tweets from @piedmontroar



**Nothing to see here - yet**

When they Tweet, their Tweets will show up here.

[View on Twitter](#)

## RECENT STORIES



# Best Editorial or Editorial Series

2nd Place  
Group II

# Ireland Hayes

*The Red & Black*  
University of Georgia

## OPINION: The future of the Okefenokee Swamp hangs in the balance, and students can help save it

Ireland Hayes | Assistant News Editor | Mar 24, 2023 Updated Apr 19, 2023



An alligator wading in shallow water at the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge on October 30, 2022. (Photo/Ireland Hayes)



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Editor's Note

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# Over admittance plagues Tech's strategic plan



**MATTHEW KISTNER**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Tech's mission has been and continues to be developing leaders who advance technology and improve the human condition. In order to accomplish and uphold this mission, the administration rolled out a ten-year strategic plan in 2020.

The plan contains six areas of strategic focus: amplifying impact, championing innovation, connecting globally, expanding access, cultivating well-being and leading by example.

To expand and meet these six goals would put the Institute in a great place, but the administration has taken some wrong turns in their efforts.

Tech's new first year class has arrived on campus, officially making them more than just the statistics that the Office of Admissions has been broadcasting since their acceptance. They are the Institute's largest class, most diverse and — according to the Georgia Tech Instagram — most accomplished. This class represents so much of

what it means to be a Jacket: they are championing innovation with their accomplishments as well as expanding access with their diverse backgrounds.

However, I pulled out my highlighter when I saw the term "largest." The strategic plan's six focuses would require a quantitative growth in the student body and the Institute indeed should grow in its effort to amplify impact as well as expand access; however, growth is not just admitting more students, it is making the proper accommodations for them in order to provide a quality experience.

Earlier this year in an interview with the Georgia Tech News Center, Director of Undergraduate Admission, Rick Clark bragged that this incoming class was "500 [students] larger than it was three years ago."

Clark may see this as an achievement for his office, but when I read this statement, I find it to be on the nose. The Institute has not constructed a new residence hall since 2005 or entirely renovated any residence halls since 2015.

The Institute still struggles to offer third and fourth year students the classes they need to graduate. The Institute has a 22:1 student to faculty ratio as opposed to other notable state schools like North Carolina who sits at 16:1, Virginia at 15:1, Michigan at 15:1 and Georgia at 17:1. The Institute is constructing interactive media

stations that take away already scarce library seating. The Institute is making that expansion and over admitting students when they simply are not ready to.

When Clark was questioned about his concern for the growth and the effect on student experience, he said "When I meet with the deans and [other] leadership around campus, there are some people concerned about our student-faculty ratio, but not many. I mean, the truth is, most of our majors in most of our colleges want to grow. However, you're right, we have to figure out a way to not keep flooding some of these majors that are already at capacity or feeling the strains. We need to do that without having the student experience suffer, inside the classroom or outside the classroom when it comes to support, whether it be advising or mental health and counseling or any of the other sort of wrap-around services and support that we provide students."

This is a really beautiful political statement that offers absolutely no solution to the growing issue. Clark has heard the concerns, but seemingly disregards them with a "head ya, we have got to do something about that" in which there is little to no action to follow.

However, Clark is not at fault here and I do not want to be too hard on him, I truly believe he has the Institute's best interest at heart and he will make the right adjustments. There are people

above him though that are pushing too hard, he says it himself. "It's also something that the University System of Georgia (USG) wants; we don't operate in a silo and we are part of a system. Funding comes from the state on some level, and we're not a private school, so we're not making entirely independent campus decisions. We have the ability to set vision, but we also have a responsibility, again, to the state [and] to the system. And that system also has a desire for Georgia Tech to grow."

This issue is bigger than Clark and it goes into the University System of Georgia itself. USG and Tech did do one thing correctly towards preparing for more students. The Institute will be breaking ground on a new residence hall that can accommodate 850 students; however, the official press release claims the residence hall will aid in the housing of students who are relocated due to renovations on existing residence halls.

This means the new residence hall will not allow for 850 new students, it will simply substitute for residence halls that are closing for renovations. Therefore, there should be no growth in the student population, right?

Every single student at Tech deserves a fulfilling, enriching and positive experience at a school that costs thousands of dollars, but this does not seem to be the aim of the administration. A 500 person growth in just three years

will absolutely not accommodate changes in almost a decade is not something to be proud of nor should it be considered progress; it is shameful.

If you found yourself walking to class over the past two weeks wondering why campus felt so full... that is because it is.

Housing for overclassmen had a waitlist with hundreds of students last spring, classes for some of the biggest majors on campus were nearly impossible to register for and the library most likely cannot sit a quarter of the campus population!

I love this school with all my heart and I want everyone to have an amazing experience here at Tech, but how can Tech "develop leaders who advance technology and improve the human condition" with one of the highest faculty to student ratios of all prestigious state schools, with nowhere to house these new leaders, with not enough classes to develop these leaders, with not enough study space for these leaders to enrich their mind, need I go on.

Tech students deserve the best from this strategic plan and the plan has their interests at heart, but the current execution of the plan is a falter from the administration.

The Institute is failing all of its students at this current time as it has focused too much on growth rather than building up the foundation they have already established. Welcome to Tech.

# Best Editorial or Editorial Series 1st Place Group II

# Matthew Kistner

*The Technique*  
Georgia Institute of Technology

**READ. THINK. SPEAK.**

**NORTH AVENUE REVIEW**

**WE NEED:**

Writers Photographers Designers

**First Meeting:** Aug. 31 @ 5pm  
Student Publications Office  
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**Best  
General  
News  
Article  
3rd Place  
Group I**

**Carson  
Bonner and  
Chandler  
Smith**

*Campus Carrier*  
Berry College

**Campus safety plans to offer shooting response training**

**Carson Bonner**  
*news editor*

**Chandler Smith**  
*staff writer*

Since last spring, Campus Safety has been conducting staff advisory training seminars to help prepare and train faculty and staff for how to safely respond to and prevent a shooting event on campus. In light of the recent shooting at the University of North Carolina (UNC), there have been over 10 requests for sessions, according to Berry College Chief of Police Ryan Chesley. These trainings teach staff and faculty how to respond if a shooting is taking place and how to handle the aftermath and student response.

According to Chesley, the trainings provide context of the importance of training, as well as the best established method for handling a shooting event and how you should adapt your response based on the surrounding environment and situation.

"If studying previous events has taught us anything about survival and minimizing casualties during these events, then a clear lesson has been that prevention and early intervention is better than any response," Chesley said. "Know the space. Think through what you might do if you found yourself needing to leave it or create a safe shelter there. I also think that it is important to be mindful about things present that cause us to feel weary or strike us as outside of normal."

Much of the training is conducted in groups to have a less formal setting and promote more conversation and strategizing, with enthusiastic response and attendance.

"We're preparing faculty and staff for an event that we hopefully won't ever have to deal with," Assistant Vice President of Campus Safety and Land Management Gary Will said. "We're teaching them environmental awareness, like 'Am

I in a room where I can lock the door? Can I open a window and go out that way? What can I use as a weapon?' There's things like that, and then at the end, we do a question and answer."

So far, the sessions have not been open to students. However, there will soon be designated sessions directed toward the student population. According to Associate Dean of Students Lindsey Norman, this will be a beneficial way of helping students be informed and prepared for any scenario.

"I think the reason they're doing [in person sessions] is sometimes students don't read their emails and this is just more opportunity for them," Norman said. "They're probably taking a comprehensive approach to get as many people informed as possible and then targeting individual groups as well."

Student interest in these sessions is high, with the general consensus being that while Berry is a safe campus, most institutions don't seem to take these threats seriously enough. They want to know what tools are at their disposal and what actions they can take to survive a conflict. Students want to know what steps they can take to be more personally responsible, and ways that they can help themselves and others in a crisis. Another concern students have is what Campus Safety's response might look like in the case of an emergency.

"What's important is knowing what to do during and after an event like that," Norman said. "Barricading doors, knowing your exits, all of those are tools that can be lifesaving. And when the police come to your door, knowing whether it's the police or not is important. If that's ever a question, you can call the Welcome Center and ask if it's an officer or someone else and they'll be able to confirm."

According to Gary Will, campus safety and police are open

We do need  
to open the  
floor to honest  
conversations  
about risk and  
possibilities.

Ryan Chesley



**Katelynn Singleton | CAMPUS CARRIER**  
Berry College Police officers stand guard as the crowd files into Saturday's football game.

to providing information to students and faculty about ways to handle crises on campus, and will continue communicating alerts as they arise. However, students like junior Dylan Swan feel as though communication up to this point has been insufficient and needs to have more information.

"I want to know what Berry's physical actions are to deal with a situation," Swan said, "When they send a Berry alert out, it shouldn't be so vague."

In an effort to provide cohesive and reliable information, Campus Safety will be providing dates and times for student attendance to these safety sessions. These will be sent out via email in the coming months.

"We don't need to stoke panic or create an environment of fear, but we do need to open the floor to honest conversations about risk and possibilities," Chesley said. "I mean this in a context greater than Berry College. A terrible event could happen anywhere and we are always better prepared for a crisis if we have considered its possibility before and to at least some degree mentally prepared for it."

**Airborne illnesses pose health concerns for returning students**

**Elizabeth Montiel-Alvarado**  
*staff writer*

Despite being nearly three years after the pandemic, COVID-19 and other airborne illnesses may still pose a threat to many people, especially students, who begin gathering as the new school year starts.

As classes begin, large groups of people gather in single classrooms where there is usually no access to open air. By having these groups of people in a closed space, it becomes much easier for airborne diseases to be spread from person to person.

"It's all about space and separation," Melanie Merrin, assistant director of the health center said. "When school starts back up or when the weather starts to get cooler, people

move indoors and are in tight crowded spaces that are not as well-ventilated as the outdoors."

Even though air ventilation in classrooms may not always be the primary reason for the spread of illnesses, it may have some effect on or worsen the reactions of the immune system. This may result in allergy symptoms that feel worse than normal or illnesses that turn out to be something else.

"I don't know if it is so much about ventilation as it is about crowded spaces, crowded indoor spaces," Merrin said. "Ventilation can play a role in making people sick and sometimes it is not even with our illnesses, it is dust and indoor allergens."

In the presence of many people in a crowded space, it's extremely important that we also be self-aware and make sure that when we get sick, we are protecting ourselves and other people in the vicinity. This can be through

wearing masks or letting the professors know when we are feeling ill.

"I don't have mandatory attendance policies right now," Courtney Cooper, visiting assistant professor of environmental policy, said. "I think it's more important that were stopping infections as we start to feel sick, so we are not spreading our germs."

The time in which most students begin to get sick starts around September as people return to campus and adjust to the environment. This period then drags on into January where the flu and other respiratory viruses are most recurrent.

Since this period is mostly during the winter months, most people tend to gather inside in the warm temperatures because they feel more comfortable there. So naturally, this leads to the quick spread of diseases and germs. But in a school like Berry with lots of open space

around, students have different options to protect themselves and their health.

"Getting 30 minutes of activity per day can boost your immune system to help prevent colds and flu during the cold season," Merrin said. "Even if it's just for a little while each day, the sunshine helps boost vitamin D."

Additionally, although many viruses can be airborne, you still have to be in close contact with someone to receive them. So we have to be careful about hygiene and our surroundings. "Just be smart, wash your hands, don't touch your eyes, your nose and your mouth with dirty hands," Merrin said.

If you would like to be a bit more protected as we enter the flu season, the health center is currently offering free flu vaccines. You can get them through appointments or walk-ins when available and they will be offering the vaccines until they run out.

### Affirmative action ends in America

#### Athens students reflect on how Supreme Court case hits home

Katie Guenther

The Supreme Court struck down affirmative action in higher education in June, ending race-conscious admissions after years of debate on the policy.

Although Georgia has not allowed the consideration of race in college admissions for decades, the Supreme Court's decision has implications for local high school and University of Georgia students pursuing higher education in other states.

#### Initial Reaction

At first, Cedar Shoals High School senior Jacqueline Medina didn't know how the decision could affect her — until she spoke with her older sister, a junior at UGA.

"The more I looked into it, I realized how much of an advantage affirmative action was to people of color," Medina said.

Medina, who identifies as Latina, feels that affirmative action helped level the playing field for first generation families like her own. She wants to become a developmental behavioral pediatrician but feels stressed as she navigates the college application process alone.

The process includes finding the proper documentation for and filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. And in a temporary change for the 2024-2025 school year, the FAFSA is set to open in December rather than October, giving families less time to apply.

"A lot of parents do not know that the FAFSA has changed this year," Gabriel Smallwood, Clarke Central High School college adviser and 2022 UGA graduate, said. "We had a lot of people reaching out to me... I've gone and added it to our college timeline."

Now that affirmative action is gone, Medina worries that her application will be affected in ways she can't control.

"I definitely do think (overturning affirmative action) will affect my application process because the majority of the schools I want to apply to are predominantly white," Medina said.

Some of her peers at U-Lead Athens, a local nonprofit dedicated to helping immigrant students access higher education, share her concerns.

"We go through the FAFSA trying to figure out what we have to do, what documents we have to ask our parents for," Medina said. "Then we also go through the college application process where we don't know what's going to be good enough for college admissions officers."

Their experiences are not unusual, according to Smallwood. He advises all of



Gabriel Smallwood, senior class college adviser at Clarke Central High School looks out the window of his office in Athens, Georgia, on Sept. 15, 2023. LIZ BYMAREK/STAFF

**“It was meant to sort of level the playing field for people who have been oppressed for generations.”**

TREY HOLLOWAY | FIFTH YEAR ECONOMICS MAJOR

Clarke Central's seniors but says part of his role is to also advise the parents of first generation students on how to navigate the application process.

"Some parents have no idea," Smallwood said. "They've never been through the process before, they don't know [where] to start — that's where I come into play."

Like Medina, Clarke Central High School senior Brandon Wilson-Price wasn't initially worried about the ruling until he later thought that it might affect his chances of getting into college.

Wilson-Price, who wants to study mass communications at the University of Miami, identifies as African American and says diversity on college campuses is important to him because he wants to be around people he can relate to.

The states that already overturned affirmative action experienced a decrease in racial diversity after the policy change, particularly at selective colleges.

A 2020 University of California Berkeley study found that Black and Latinx student enrollment at the University of California Los Angeles and Berkeley dropped by 40%

after California overturned affirmative action.

The University System of Georgia stopped race conscious admissions in 2000 after a case in which three white women sued for alleged discrimination after their denial to UGA. UGA sophomore English major Jake Hays says that a lack of diversity in colleges would lead to a lack of diversity in other areas of life.

"Diversity, especially at more elite institutions — it directly impacts who our world leaders are going to be," Hays said.

Another UGA student, fifth year economics major Trey Holloway, was not surprised when he heard about the ruling. He said he expected it after recent Supreme Court decisions, such as the overturn of Roe v. Wade.

Holloway, who identifies as Black, thinks that affirmative action helped address systemic inequalities against people of color.

"It was meant to sort of level the playing field for people who have been oppressed for generations," Holloway said.

#### Moving Forward

Wilson-Price thinks students of color might

be discouraged from applying to more selective, less diverse schools in the future. He thinks ending affirmative action won't end racial bias in admissions either.

Even if colleges can't see an applicant's race, they might still hold an unconscious racial bias based on an applicant's name — a form of discrimination that is evident in job applications and housing.

In fact, in another study by UCB and the University of Chicago involving 83,000 job applications, researchers found that applicants with "distinctively Black-sounding names" were called back 10% fewer times, despite having comparable applications to their white counterparts.

But some students see other ways forward to make an equitable college admissions process that does not rely on affirmative action.

Mexican American Clarke Central High School senior Cristian Paez suggested that colleges could take into account economic class instead of race to maintain and even increase diversity. Paez, who wants to work in government, believes economic diversity is ignored in college admissions, even though it is just as important as ethnic diversity.

Hays suggests that colleges could continue affirmative action indirectly by admitting more students from Title I schools. Smallwood explained that Title I is a designation that grants federal funding to schools with high percentages of low-income and otherwise disadvantaged students. Both Cedar Shoals and Clarke Central are considered Title I schools.

Some disagree that other methods will be as effective as affirmative action in promoting equality. Holloway believes that admitting students based on economic diversity rather than racial diversity fails to acknowledge that racism affects all people of color, regardless of class.

"Having a focus on class is good, but it can't just only be class," Holloway said.

Despite their concerns, students don't want to let politics affect their future as they apply to college. Wilson-Price said he feels like there's always going to be a group you feel welcome in, as long as you really get out and look for the right fit.

Smallwood said his counseling approach won't change, and the focus will remain on the individual student — meeting them where they are to help them achieve their goals.

"I don't think it's going to affect the colleges I apply to because I don't want to let it affect me," Medina said. "At the end of the day — if I get in, I get in; if I don't, I don't."



# Microsoft to build data center in West Rome

**Eric Zuniga**  
deputy news editor

Microsoft is planning to build a \$1 billion, 347-acre data center in West Rome on Huffaker Road. The company announced its plans at a Rome Floyd County Development Authority (RFCDA) meeting in October.

The data center, which Microsoft tentatively plans to complete in 2027 or 2028, will house computers and servers to support the company's cloud computing services. Microsoft says that the center should create at least 150 jobs in the area.

The center's planned location in West Rome places it only about five miles from Berry's campus and near other higher education institutions in northwest Georgia. Mecole Ledbetter, associate director of employer engagement and internships, said the center's proximity will open many professional opportunities for Berry students.

"I think it's a great opportunity for us," Ledbetter said. "Having their presence here, I think, enriches the academic landscape by providing our students with experiences—internship experiences, pathways to post-college employment. I think this is one of the best opportunities I've been closely connected to in a while."

According to a report in the Rome News-Tribune, Microsoft has said it chose to locate in Rome because of the city's industrial zoning and well-developed infrastructure. Although the company was not involved in discussions with Berry before the announcement, Ledbetter said Berry's presence likely played a role in the decision.

"One of the main things that employers look for when choosing a location is talent," Ledbetter said. "They're studying the pathways that the colleges offer as well as the high schools. Maybe I'm biased because I'm here at Berry and I love Berry, but I can personally say that I believe that [we] played a part in their final decision."

The Center for Professional and Personal Development intends to develop a partnership with Microsoft as the data center nears completion. Ledbetter plans on sharing information about Berry's internship and student work programs with the RFCDA, which could serve as a liaison between the company and the college.

"They can be a resource to put our information into employers' hands, such as Microsoft, and also a connectivity between the two," Ledbetter said. "If we can build and strengthen that relationship,

then we'll always have a gateway into companies like Microsoft."

Associate Professor of Computer Science Nadeem Hamid said the data center could provide excellent internship opportunities in information technology for students in the Berry Information Technology Students (BITS) program.

"This hopefully would be a good opportunity for Berry students to do internships in IT," Hamid said. "That's the kind of skills that would be used in the data center because you need to set up computers and run networking between them. When things die, you might swap out parts or figure out where there's a broken link."

According to Hamid, data centers are typically devoted to the storage large amounts of information rather than the development of new products. This means Microsoft's center will likely hire few computer science graduates, who are trained in the development and writing of new software.

The new center could also open up employment opportunities not directly related to IT for students, according to Ledbetter.

"When you have a data center, it really depends on the departments that are within that data center," Ledbetter said. "There could be marketing, there could be public relations, because a lot of our community will want to know about the datacenter, what their goals are, what their accomplishments are."

Microsoft's expansion into northwest Georgia has the potential to significantly alter the region's economy, which is currently dominated by the healthcare industry. Many technology faculty and staff at Berry are hoping the center will stimulate a growing tech industry in Rome.

"We have such a small IT community here in town and I would love to see a much bigger, more active sort of group," Chief Information Officer Penny Evans-Plants said. "I think it'll help facilitate that, just because there will be more people here working within the IT field."

Hamid said many technology companies may consider locating in Rome to have faster access to Microsoft's cloud services.

"With this over here, maybe there'll be some

drift over the I-75 corridor towards Cartersville and Rome, so you might have other technology companies that start to pop up," Hamid said.

"That should hopefully give opportunities for students for internships or careers once they graduate in places that need people that can do software stuff."

The RFCDA has offered Microsoft tax abatements on the new center. Though the company will pay county property and school system taxes, Microsoft will not have to pay taxes on the building and equipment for 12 years. Marc Hunsaker, dean of personal and professional development, said these kinds of abatements will likely attract more tech companies to the city.

"The tax abatements that we offer as the community is how those kinds of partnerships get started," Hunsaker said. "There's a reason why those companies cluster together in different places. They all are looking for the same kind of amenities."

Though many at Berry are excited about the vocational opportunities the data center may bring, some in the local community have doubts about Microsoft's entrance. Evans-Plants said that some locals feel that the multinational tech company is a departure from the traditional focus on manufacturing in the region's economy.

Others have raised concerns about the data center's usage of county water and power resources. Evans-Plants welcomes the new facility but hopes that Microsoft prioritizes sustainability in its development.

"I think those are legitimate concerns, because of what we've seen happen at other locations around the country where data centers are located, the amount of power and water they use," Evans-Plants said. "Hopefully Microsoft is working to address some of those issues."

Hamid said Microsoft's presence in the community might attract more students who are interested in working in the technology industry to Berry.

"I think it will make the college, Berry, more visible," Hamid said. "When [students] see there's a datacenter there, it just has that atmosphere of being tech-y, so it might bolster that aspect of Berry's programs and encourage more students to pursue them."

A spokesperson for Microsoft did not provide specifics about the new data center but said the company is committed to the tech industry in Georgia.

"We don't have anything definitive to share at this time but can confirm we are committed to supporting Georgia's digital transformation with the Microsoft cloud," the spokesperson said in a statement.

I think this is one of the best opportunities I have been closely connected with in a while.

Mecole Ledbetter

We have such a small IT community here in town and I would love to see a much bigger, more active sort of group.

Penny Evans-Plants

**Nov. 23- 29**  
Officers responded to two fire alarms.

**Nov. 27**  
Student reported that his backpack was missing.

**Berry College Campus Safety**

For emergencies, call (706) 236-2262

For non-emergencies, call (706) 368-6999

Berry police will remain on campus over Winter Break in case of an emergency.

You don't have to wait for Thursday to get your news! Follow us on social media to stay up-to-date:

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**Best General News Article 1st Place Group I**  
**Eric Zuniga**  
*Campus Carrier*  
Berry College



**Best  
General  
News  
Article  
3rd Place  
Group II**

**Dawn  
Sawyer**  
*The Red &  
Black*  
University of Georgia

REMEMBERING  
**Devin Willock**

Loved ones keep the memory of No. 77 alive



Shawnee Willock holds a wooden coin with Devin Willock's number, 77, at Paterson Catholic High School in Paterson, New Jersey, on Friday, Nov. 10, 2023. PHOTO: LEO SWANEY



Shawnee Willock holds Devin Willock's former New Milford High School football jersey outside her home in New Milford, New Jersey, on Friday, November 10, 2023 next to a tree planted by her and her two sons and mother for Mother's Day. PHOTO: LEO SWANEY

**Dawn Sawyer**

Shawnee Willock's dogs jilt her awake every day at 5 a.m., begging to be let out.

"Kodie, it's too early," Shawnee says to the black labrador retriever mix.

Between her and Shawnee's other dog, Nova, Kodie is always the initiator of the two. "Go back to bed."

The dog's barking may calm, but Shawnee and her sons stay mad at her Kodie is, after all, Devin's dog.

Shawnee used to speak with her son, Devin Willock, close to the time in the morning as he made his way to class in GA and she made her way to work in New York as a nurse practitioner. The regular check-ins were like clockwork for the mother and son. Until earlier this year — until the day tragedy repeated itself for the Willock family and he was gone.

Devin was an offensive lineman, No. 77 for the University of Georgia football team, who played in two national championship victories in 2021 and 2022. But beyond that, according to his family and friends, he was extraordinary.

"Remembering Devin, he was a positive person, he was a bright person," Shawnee said. "I'll think he was the same way all the time ... He was forever smiling."

Devin Willock and Georgia football recruiting analyst Chandler LeCroy died in a car accident on Jan. 15 in Athens, Georgia, in the early hours of the morning after the national championship celebration parade. The two came as a surprise shock to his hometown of New Milford, New Jersey, and to his loved ones in Georgia as well.

"Devin, he was excited about this year," Shawnee said. "The way going to his game. He always, he was going to work hard, he said he was going to do what he had to do. He was going to get it done this year. He was ready."



Shawnee Willock looks out of the window of her home. PHOTO: LEO SWANEY

SEE WILLOCK ON PAGE A8

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# Best General News Article 2nd Place Group II

**Eliza Moore**  
*The Cluster*  
Mercer University

COVID-19 CAMPUS NEWS STATE & LOCAL NEWS ARTS & CULTURE SPORTS OPINION ABOUT ▾ 🔍

CAMPUS NEWS

## Collaborative student research project uncovers details of Mercer's queer history



Students Bekehm Mohn and Savannah French meet in the library to read through documents from the archives related to Mercer's queer history for the "We are

### Popular

**ATO apologizes for \$11,410 misappropriated from Camp for a Cause 2022 funds**

By [Eliza Moore](#) | January 31

**UPDATE: ATO alumni fully returns funds from 2022 philanthropy event.**

By [Henry Keating](#) | February 1

**Mercer taps a Lenoir-Rhyne coach again to lead Mercer Football**

By [Gabriel Kopp](#) | January 25

**Mercer club sports add wrestling team**

By [Isaiah Lyseight](#) | January 27

**Athletics announces expanding facilities**

By [Gabriel Kopp](#) | February 19

Tweets from  
[@MercerCluster](#)

# Best General News Article

1st Place  
Group II

## Jesse Wood

*The Red &  
Black*

University of  
Georgia

**The Red & Black**  
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VOL. 131 | No. 9 | Athens, Georgia Thursday, October 19, 2023

### Road to redress

Linnentown's fight for recognition



Katlie Thomas Whitehead, a descendant of Linnentown, stands in front of the newly renamed Linnentown Lane road sign in Athens, Georgia, on Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2023. The sign was unveiled on Thursday, Sept. 21, 2023, and stands as a monument to the years that Thomas Whitehead, along with other advocates and descendants of Linnentown, fought for justice for the community. PHOTO: JESSE WOOD

**A2 PEDESTRIAN SAFETY**  
Assessing improvements two years after Ariana Zarise's death

**A6 HOME AWAY FROM HOME**  
The Georgia volleyball team's brief stay in Ramsey

**B3 DAY IN THE LIFE**  
Follow five members of the Georgia Spike Squad on gameday

**B5 FLAVORS OF FALL**  
A roundup of local menu items that celebrate spooky season



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# Best News Article: Investigative Reporting 3rd Place Group I

# Carson Bonner

## *Campus Carrier*

### Berry College

Thursday, Oct. 26, 2023

NEWS

Page 3

## Current Israel-Hamas conflict has global effects

**Carson Bonner**  
news editor

*Editor's note: A source mentioned has requested to remain anonymous. Out of respect for the source's safety, this request has been granted.*

The recent escalation of the Israel-Hamas conflict has had detrimental effects on the livelihood of Israeli and Palestinian people abroad, and also on Jewish and Muslim communities. According to the United Nations website, over 5,000 people have been killed in Gaza in the last several weeks with almost half of them being children, and Israel has experienced a death count of at least 1,400. Numbers have been reported by both sides and differ according to various sources.

The conflict surrounding the ownership of the Gaza Strip and West Bank has been ongoing since 1947 when territory was divided, creating distinct Jewish and Arab territories, but more recently since 2006 when a blockade was put in place around the Gaza Strip by Israel and Egypt to control flow of Gaza citizens in and out of the territory. After the election of Hamas in 2006, the group currently in control of the Gaza Strip, the purpose of the blockade changed to prevent the flow of resources and weapons into Gaza.

"The blockade has caused a lot of human rights violations," Professor of Religion Jeffrey Lidke said. "They lack resources in there: food, money. They're essentially in an open air prison, and have been for years."

Last Tuesday, a vigil was held for students to pray for peace and an end to the conflict. Thursday, Berry held a discussion panel where four professors discussed the ongoing conflict as well as government response and implications in the United States. They also discussed the importance of knowing citizens in Palestine and Israel are not representatives of their governments. The current fighting between Hamas and Israel was sparked by an attack on Israel on Oct. 7. Militants from Gaza fired rockets towards Israel before breaking through the fence and sending militants into

Israeli territory. Hamas gunmen killed more than 1,200 people, including civilians and soldiers, and took around 200 hostages, according to Israeli authorities and the Associated Press.

"My heart hurts for my people," Daniel Acker, a man of Jewish faith who attends the Rodeph Shalom Temple in Rome said. "Seeing the deaths and the brutality broke my heart. The hostages too."

While the conflict may be happening in the Middle East, effects are still felt across the globe, including in the United States. Professor of Religion and Philosophy Michael Papazian's family is from Lebanon and his grandparents lived in orphanages there as children. He is also Armenian and historically, Armenians have resided in Jerusalem, the capital of Israel.

"There is always that connection to Israel and Palestine even though I am not Arabic or Jewish," Papazian said. "There is always still that historical connection that's very important. Also, I have very close connections

to religions in the Middle East and would love to see peace between them again, as I have seen in the past."

With the conflict comes misinformation, as is the case with any conflict. According to Assistant Professor of History Kelsey Rice, some has to do with the representation of Palestine.

"There are many misconceptions around these events," Rice said. "I see people, including this area's congressional representative, conflating all Palestinians with Hamas. As I noted during Thursday's event, 75% of the residents of Gaza were not old enough to vote for Hamas in 2006, which is the last time there was an election - and Hamas did not even receive half the vote in 2006. Palestinians in the West Bank are governed by the Palestinian Authority, which is a

completely different organization."

There has been a rise in anti-Islam and antisemitic hate crimes in response to the ongoing conflict. In Chicago, a six-year-old Palestinian-American boy was stabbed to death by his mother's 71 year-old landlord when his mother proposed they pray for peace between Palestine and Israel. The man has been arrested and charged. There have also been instances of synagogues being burned down in Tunisia, as well as 153 incidents of antisemitic crime in the US between Oct. 7-18.

"The hate crimes should not be happening,

because not all Muslims are responsible for the conflict," a Berry student of Muslim faith said. "People in the United States aren't even involved. Muslims here are not the Muslims killing Israelis. [Islam] is about peace. All of Islam surrounds peace, so the acts of war and hatred are not those of people who want peace."

The Muslim student said that the overall bias toward Israel is also forcing the idea that Muslims are responsible for the death and the conflict.

"Most countries are supporting Israel and that makes it difficult to be Muslim, even if we are in the US," the student said. "I have family in the Middle East and I am from a country of war, so I know what it is like to be the people in Gaza who cannot fight and want to leave. I do not feel Israeli citizens are causing violence or the Palestinian citizens, and the media is saying that Israel as a whole is the victim, when that just isn't true when you look at Palestine's history."

President Joe Biden gave a statement after meeting with Israel's Prime Minister, and the president of the Palestinian Authority.

"As hard as it is, we cannot give up on peace," he said in his statement. "Israel and Palestinians deserve to live in safety, dignity and peace."

They're essentially  
in an open air  
prison, and have  
been for years.

Jeffrey Lidke



**Oct. 18 - Oct. 21**  
Officers responded to four fire alarms.

**Oct. 19 - Oct. 22**  
Medical response was needed for two students.

**Oct. 20**  
Student received a scam call.

**Oct. 22**  
Officers responded to a townhouse for a noise complaint.

**Berry College  
Campus Safety**

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# Best News Article: Investigative Reporting 2nd Place Group I

**Jenna Arnold**  
*The Spectator*  
Valdosta State University



## PROFESSOR INVESTIGATED FOR WRITING RACIAL SLUR

🕒 October 11, 2023 📁 News, Spotlight, Top Headlines, Topstory 👁 5,272 Views

On Sept. 27, a professor wrote a racial slur on a whiteboard in front of his class, leading to an investigation.

Dr. Fred Earls, a communication professor at VSU, wrote the n-word on a whiteboard during his lecture, which has caused controversy. The lecture was on how language changes depending on who uses it, using the n-word as the lead of the discussion.

Dr. Michael Schmidt, dean of the College of the Arts, responded to the issue first-hand by visiting the following class.

“We immediately began investigating the issue with the appropriate individuals on campus,” said Dr. Schmidt.

It is unclear if any actions have been taken against the professor.

“Unfortunately, VSU does not comment on personnel matters,” said Dr. Schmidt.

Dr. Earls did not comment on the specifics of the event.

“There are still situations that are working themselves out in the background surrounding the class,” said

Dr. Earls. “I want the dust to settle before I talk about it.”

# Best News Article: Investigative Reporting 1st Place Group I

**Eric Zuniga**  
*Campus Carrier*  
Berry College

Page 2 – Thursday, Nov. 9, 2023

NEWS

## Questions raised about logging operations on Berry's land

**Eric Zuniga**  
*deputy news editor*

Berry has received scrutiny over the timber operations on the college's vast forest acreage. Some faculty members have raised questions about logging sustainability on college land, criticizing what they call a lack of transparency from administration.

According to Jim Watkins, professor of English, rhetoric and writing, after multiple faculty members raised concerns about Berry's land use policies in Fall 2022, a committee with five members was formed to look into the issue.

"We asked key players in the Physical Plant and the administration about plans to address some of the things we were looking at, and then we presented a report to the committee," Watkins said.

The committee heard anecdotal reports of extensive clearcutting on Mountain Campus. While administration confirmed that logging occurs on Berry's campus, the committee felt too many details were withheld.

"We don't know how common this is, how extensive it is, how limited or long-term the plan for clear-cutting remains," Watkins said.

According to Gary Will, assistant vice president for campus safety and land management, the college draws plans for timber operations at the beginning of every fiscal year in July. Will works with Forestry Manager Tim Chesnut to identify tracts of land to open for logging. These tracts are approved by the Board of Trustees.

Depending on the timber market and the tracts' conditions, the college will authorize

either a clearcut or a thinning, according to Chesnut. In a clearcut, all trees in a tract are harvested. A small portion of trees are left in a thinning.

The college contracts its timber operations out to different logging companies. According to Will, although the Land Resource Office will sometimes solicit bids for logging operations, Berry generally relies upon a select set of local loggers.

In a statement to the faculty land use committee, Vice President for Finance Brian Erb indicated the college brings in \$250,000 to \$400,000 annually in timber revenue.

According to Erb, although replanting and preparation costs of the operations limit profit, the college benefits financially in the long run.

"It's important to keep rotational harvesting consistent, or we end up losing value [due] to insect damage (beetles), weather, age," Erb said in his statement to the committee.

About 18,000 acres of land are included in Berry's forestry management plans. The amount of land a logger can clearcut depends on weather conditions, but Chesnut said that most tracts on Berry's campus are between 5 and 200 acres. Now, more loggers are operating than usual due to drought conditions.

"Right now, just recently, we had two loggers going," Chesnut said.

While clearcutting is often necessary to address destructive environmental issues like pine beetle infestations, Associate Professor of Environmental Studies Brian Campbell said that Berry should prioritize low-impact practices that minimize clearcutting.

"[Low-impact logging] is more selective logging and low-grading, rather than clear cutting and high grading, and it results in less

erosion and need for herbicide applications," Campbell said.

The faculty committee reported administration has not adequately confirmed that low-impact methods are being prioritized in Berry's timber operations.

According to Chesnut, the college is a member of the American Tree Farm System, which prescribes best practices to prevent erosion and damage to soil and watersheds. Berry is currently in the process of renewing certifications for the tree farms it operates.

Chesnut added that both contractors and the college can face penalties from the Georgia Forestry Commission if loggers do not follow state guidelines. Berry also requires that all contractors agree to a bond that they must pay back if they cause environmental damage.

Berry has recently entered a partnership with the Nature Conservancy, an environmental non-profit, to replant clearcut areas. Chesnut said the college aims to replant most clearcut areas with longleaf pine, a native species that is beneficial for the ecosystem.

"We're not outstripping nature in any way," Chesnut said. "We're in concert with it."

The faculty land use committee in particular raised concerns over Berry's lack of a land use statement and long-term timber management plan.

"Everything we do should be saying, [our plans are] a model for how we should move forward," Watkins said.

Chesnut said that he is working with Will on a comprehensive land use and timber management plan.

"The overall theme is that whatever is done is done systematically. Things are not just left alone—cut five trees, plant twenty,"

Chesnut said. "We're working on that. It's a slow process because I'm constantly getting more data."

In response to concerns that the college has not adequately kept the community informed about timber operations, the Business and Finance Office has now agreed to meet with a faculty representative to discuss these issues every semester. Watkins said that this is a step in the right direction.

Though Berry administration appears to be addressing recent concerns, some faculty and students feel the college has had a mixed record on environmental issues in the past. Alumna Margaret Ashton (20c), who was a co-president of the organization now known as the Eco Club, felt administration did not involve students and faculty enough in sustainability decisions. Ashton said Berry should form a sustainability office to address these concerns.

"That would be one thing, creating positions for these sorts of people and investing them with some sort of power," Ashton said.

Faculty members have echoed this sentiment, saying that students, faculty and staff should have more input in Berry's timber operations. Campbell said there are missed learning opportunities if students are uninvolved.

Watkins said Berry should prioritize sustainability in timber operations to protect invaluable wildlife as well as to preserve an important part of Martha Berry's legacy.

"This is a precious part of Martha Berry's legacy that she herself felt strongly about," Watkins said. "The public needs reassurance that priorities are being given to maintaining environmental sustainability."

# Best News Article: Yashvini Deva

## Investigative Reporting

3rd Place  
Group II

*The Technique*

Georgia Institute of Technology

### Israel-Palestine violence ups campus tension

**YASHVINI DEVA**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

*Editor's Note: All statistics of casualties and injuries are current up to the time the article was written on Oct. 18, 2023.*

On Oct. 7, 2023 at 6:30 a.m., Hamas, a militant group and a U.S.-designated terrorist organization fired an estimated 2,200 rockets toward southern and central Israel. They also fired guns into a music festival, kidnapped and held Israeli citizens hostage (including the elderly and children) and went from house to house killing families. The attack happened on Simchat Torah, a Jewish celebration to mark the completion of the annual reading of the Torah. In total, the attack killed more than 1,400 Israelis.

Later that day, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu released his first public statement, saying "Israel is at war."

Israel retaliated with a bombardment by warplanes. The Israeli government has also halted electricity, food, water and fuel to Gaza until Hamas releases Israeli hostages — a move that has

been criticized by the United Nations (U.N.) and European Union (E.U.), as it places the population of Gaza at the "inescapable risk of starvation." Israel's military told approximately one million people in northern Gaza to evacuate to the southern part of Gaza in light of an expected ground action. Israeli airstrikes continued on the main road out of Gaza City as many fled. Hamas told Palestinians to ignore the evacuation order, leaving them in a situation with no safe area.

In a press release, a U.N. human rights expert warned that Palestinians are in "grave danger of mass ethnic cleansing" and sources such as the Human Rights Watch have designated the Gaza Strip as an "open-air prison." Israeli retaliation for the Oct. 7 attacks has killed more than 3,300 Palestinians according to the Gaza Health Ministry, as of Oct. 18.

While the timeline of the conflict is deeply complex and debated, historians often point to the political conflict being traced back to 1917 with the Balfour Declaration. This declaration included a statement of Imperial British support for the creation

of a national home for Jewish people in what was then known as Ottoman-controlled Palestine. This was especially pertinent since the years between 1899 to 1939 represented what is commonly accepted as a high point in antisemitism in Western societies. Examples of this include the proliferation of scapegoating, damaging stereotypes, political and economic exclusion, events such as "The Dreyfus Affair," acts of violence and the Holocaust.

Britain's political purpose for issuing the Balfour Declaration was to court Jewish support for the Allied Powers in the First World War. However, the British had also promised to support Arab efforts for independence in lands ruled by the Ottoman Turks, presumably including Palestine, to win their support.

After the First World War, the British were granted a mandate for Palestine in 1920. In 1947, the U.N. passed Resolution 181 which aimed to divide the British mandate of Palestine into Arab and Jewish states.

The creation of the State of Israel sparked the Arab-Israeli War in 1948. Israel's victory in

the Arab-Israeli War saw the territory divided into three parts — the State of Israel, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip — with the West Bank and Gaza being Palestinian territories. This move displaced 750,000 Palestinians and killed 15,000 Palestinians and is known as the Nakba, Arabic for "catastrophe." Following this, there was an increase in the percentage of the Jewish population from 32% to 82% in the Israel-Palestine region between the years of 1947 and 1948.

Another key factor in escalating tensions was the Yom Kippur War, also known as the Ramadan War, which saw Egypt and Syria attacking Israel on two fronts.

The attack occurred on Yom Kippur, the holiest day on the Jewish calendar and during Ramadan, the holiest month in the Islamic calendar.

The issue of Palestinian self-determination and governance still remained, even after problems between Israel and neighboring countries were resolved. In 1987, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians participated in spontaneous demonstrations, nonviolent protests and attacks.

This was the First Intifada, meaning "uprising" in Arabic, and saw more than 1,000 Palestinian and 50 Israeli fatalities.

The peace process began in 1991 and ended in 1993 with the Oslo I Accords, which saw both sides agree to a five-year peace process and phases of a plan to deal with final status issues.

The Oslo I Accords were further expanded in 1995 with the Oslo II Accords that mandated Israel's complete withdrawal from six cities and 450 towns in the West Bank.

The Second Intifada occurred between 2000 and 2005. It was sparked by widespread Palestinian sentiment that the expectations of the Oslo Accords were unmet and both sides beginning preparations for confrontation.

In response to suicide bombings and other attacks from Palestine during the Intifada in 2002, the Israeli government constructed a barrier wall around the West Bank — a move that received opposition from both the International Court of Justice. The conflict ended in late 2005 with a truce between Mahmoud

See **CONTINUED**, page 4

# Best News Article: Investigative Reporting 2nd Place Group II

## Bethany Rentz *The Stallion* Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

# News

Alexis Frazier  
Editor



October 12, 2023

## Homophobia Remains a Campus Stain

BETHANY RENTZ  
Copy Editor

If you follow certain social media, homophobia appears to be baked into ABAC's culture. As most ABAC students are aware, Yik Yak, the social media app that allows users to post anonymously to anyone within a five-mile radius, has become a cesspool of bigotry and bullying, most of which has been aimed at LGBTQ+ students.

Nestled in the heart of Southwest Georgia, ABAC has advertised itself as a welcoming refuge for students of all walks of life, characterized by its Southern hospitality and nondescript "southern values." More truthfully, though, some of ABAC's most determined and involved students argue that the school's squeaky-clean reputation is nothing more than a façade.

Cyberbullying on Yik Yak has become a common experience for ABAC sophomore Aileene Bjork-Novascotia, an openly transgender woman. Commonly misquoted and referred to as "cat boy" or "cat ears," Aileene has been repeatedly harassed online by other students for her gender expression.

To some, the solution might be to simply remove her cat ears and any other article of clothing that would draw attention, but Aileene does not want to sacrifice her individuality to accommodate others' bigotry.

"It's not that I'm trying to draw attention... Everybody has a right to freedom of expression," Aileene said.

On Snapchat, Aileene has also been the victim of unwanted and unsolicited photos. Shared through the ABAC Snapchat stories, Aileene's photo has been posted without her consent as she has walked across campus. Students in her classes, according to Aileene, have also attempted to photograph her in the classroom as well as posting about her on Yik Yak while in class.

Even worse, Aileene stated that she has been falsely accused of and reported for a crime on campus, resulting in distress and distrust toward ABAC's police department. Upon request for comment, an officer who responded to the report noted the priority of the safety of students and said of the report that ultimately there was "nothing to it."

Aileene also said that during her freshman year at Lakeside, her doorknob was covered in a lubricant and her door in tape, along with a note attached telling her to kill herself.

Homophobic ABAC students seemingly do not allow international borders to limit their bigotry: during ABAC's study abroad trip to France earlier this year, Aileene was the target of transphobia, despite her not being on the trip. A graphic image of a transwoman reportedly circulated among students on the trip.

According to Aileene, students compared her to the photo, making suggestive and harassing comments and asking obscene questions, such as, "Where did you get the money to buy your tits?"

Dr. Jay Webb and Dr. Tom Grant, the faculty advisors on the France trip, said that



ABAC GSA Officers behind a pride flag. Photo by Delaney Garcia.

they were unaware that this occurred; had they known, they said, they would have taken the appropriate action necessary to not only remedy the situation but also to help the offending students understand the harmful nature of their actions.

Dr. Webb added, "I hope students are aware of the CARE team where they can report and gain support regarding incidents, misconduct, or threatening behaviors." The CARE team (Communication, Awareness, Referral, Education) advocates for student safety and support on campus. (For more information, visit [www.abac.edu/careteam](http://www.abac.edu/careteam).) Aileene is not the only member of ABAC's LGBTQ+ community who gets harassed online. Recently on Yik Yak, a post was made asking ABAC users, "Is BCM homophobic?" This thread included various homophobic rantings from anonymous students.

BCM is ABAC's Baptist Collegiate Ministry. Despite being a champion for welcomeness and virtue, BCM's homophobic reputation, according to some students, may be growing.

ABAC junior Lauren, who is also a Christian, alleged that she has faced discrimination from BCM members on campus for being a lesbian. Lauren was reportedly told by members of the ministry that "being gay is wrong" and that gay people are "abominations" who are "going to Hell."

"They didn't know that I am gay. And I didn't want to publicize the fact that I'm gay while I was there because they were saying this stuff to my face," Lauren said. "I [felt] threatened."

Hoping a college community would be more accepting, Lauren attended BCM meetings on campus to connect with other Christians. After experiencing homophobia from student members, Lauren decided not to return for her own safety and well-being. When asked if she reported these experiences, Lauren said that she did not think that the harassment would be under ABAC's jurisdiction since the events took place on a three-day, off-campus retreat.

"I feel like the whole point of being a Christian is to be caring and accepting of everyone, even if they don't have the same

religion as you or they don't have the same beliefs as you," Lauren added. "You're supposed to accept them and be nice to them."

Representatives for ABAC's BCM did not respond to requests for comment.

Homophobia at ABAC is not limited to students. Ash, whose name has been changed for anonymity, revealed that they have heard professors using potentially harmful language regarding the LGBTQ+ community.

Ash, an agender and queer student at ABAC, reportedly experienced gender-based discrimination from their teacher. Wearing a "they/them" pin to show others their preferred pronouns, Ash stated that their teacher not only continuously referred to them as "Miss," but the teacher also questioned Ash's decision to legally change

their name, which Ash now looks back on as "invasive."

Jess, a student at ABAC, whose name has been changed for anonymity, is openly bisexual and nonbinary. Jess reported that they have also experienced discrimination from students on campus.

Aside from getting side-eyed and being referred to with feminine terms, Jess said, "I've been told that gay people will go to hell, that God will judge us, that we will suffer and face the consequences for existing. It's a round-about way of saying we make you uncomfortable and you don't like us but hiding behind religion to say it."

Each of these events made Aileene, Ash, Jess, and Lauren feel distrustful, fearful, paranoid, threatened, and uncomfortable.

"I can't trust someone who believes, fundamentally, I'm incorrect for existing," Jess said.

Despite these incidents occurring on campus or within school-affiliated groups, these experiences have gone unreported, likely because students do not have confidence in the school's reporting guidelines and procedures.

While Title IX under federal law has protections for gender and sexuality, this fact is conveniently missing from ABAC's Title IX webpage. "Sex and gender" are listed as being protected under ABAC Title IX, but the webpage makes no specific mention of gender expression or sexuality.

Among the students I interviewed, none of them was aware of Title IX's protections for LGBTQ+ students. Why has ABAC refused to acknowledge these protections, and why are they missing from the website?

ABAC public relations director Chris Beckham, on behalf of ABAC's administration, responded, "Abraham

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ABAC GSA flyer from Spring 2023. Photo via GSA Instagram.



# Best News Article: Investigative Reporting 1st Place Group II

**Lucinda  
Warnke**  
*The Red & Black*  
University of Georgia

Under the law, and with few exceptions, lawful weapons carriers may carry concealed handguns in public university classes if they are conducted in buildings and facilities not otherwise exempt from the law.

## 'Armed and dangerous'

University community reckons with campus carry after UNC shooting

Lucinda Warnke

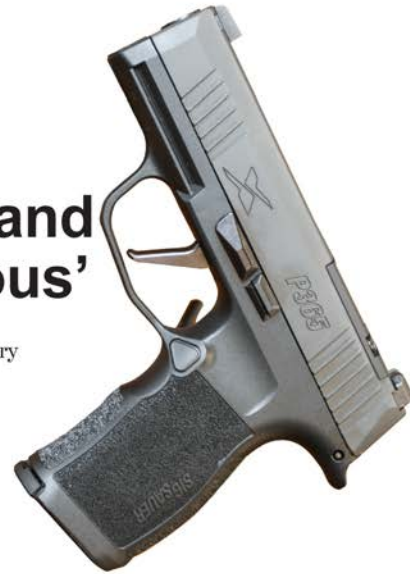
The message came just after 1 p.m. It was Monday afternoon — an otherwise bright start to a new week at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill — and campus life hurried on as usual. That all changed when a text was sent out to the campus community warning that an "armed and dangerous" person was on or near campus.

Just after the text, warning sirens blared. Students raced to take cover, shouting themselves into dark rooms and grass. Community members scrambled to alert others and tell friends and family that they loved them. Little information was available, and terror filled the empty space that knowledge created.

Police soon arrested Cassell Labe, where the active shooter reportedly was. It was more than three hours of chaos until the "all-clear" came.

Police arrested a graduate student in the department of applied physical sciences, for shooting and killing Zita Yu, an associate professor in the same department.

The next day in Athens, Janet Price — an associate professor of psychology at the University of Georgia — opened X, formerly known as Twitter. She had friends on UNC's faculty who experienced the shooting first-hand and watched as academic demands grew on college campuses online. Now, she wanted to contribute.



A2

**AFFIRMATIVE ACTION ENDS**  
Athens students react to Supreme Court ruling

A6

**COAST TO COAST**  
Hannah White's journey from USC to Georgia soccer's leading scorer

B3

**HERITAGE IN HARMONY**  
Celebrating local Latino musicians during Hispanic Heritage Month

B4

**LABOR OF LOVE**  
Local restaurant, 'Vival Argentine,' closes after more than a decade

PHOTO: LUC WARNKE  
RENDERING: LUC WARNKE

# Best Website

3rd Place  
Division A

# *The Spectator*

Valdosta State University

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LADY BLAZERS UPSETS UNION, AGAIN

# Best Website

2nd Place  
Division A

# The Red & Black

University of Georgia



## The Red & Black

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- Code of Ethics
- About
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- Crosswords
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### HEADLINES

**UGA named top producer of Fulbright U.S. students**  
Updated 54 mins ago

### News

CAMPUS NEWS  
FEATURED

#### UGA named top producer of Fulbright U.S. students

Carly Johnson Updated 54 mins ago

CAMPUS NEWS  
FEATURED TOP STORY

#### 'Odd but cool': UGA senior Christian Spence reflects on running an ultramarathon

+4 Ella Jones Updated 54 mins ago

CAMPUS NEWS  
FEATURED

#### UGAPD Blotter: Student breaks into Special Collections Library and

### Top story



### UGA News

Georgia football loses three staff members

UGA named top producer of Fulbright U.S. students

'Odd but cool': UGA senior Christian Spence reflects on running an ultramarathon

Javyn Nicholson rises up for Georgia women's basketball after career-high game

UGAPD Blotter: Student breaks into Special Collections Library and more



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# Best Website

1st Place

Division A

# The Cluster

Mercer University

# The Mercer Cluster

Wednesday, Feb 21, 2024

COVID-19 CAMPUS NEWS STATE & LOCAL NEWS ARTS & CULTURE SPORTS OPINION ABOUT ▾

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February 14 | SPORTS



## Softball and Baseball season previews

By [Isaiah Lyseight](#)

February 5 | SPORTS



February 19 | SPORTS

## Athletics announces expanding facilities

By [Gabriel Kopp](#)



## Popular

ATO apologizes for \$11,410 misappropriated from Camp for a Cause 2022 funds

By [Eliza Moore](#) | January 31

UPDATE: ATO alumni fully returns funds from 2022 philanthropy event.

By [Henry Keating](#) | February 1

Mercer taps a Lenoir-Rhyne coach again to lead Mercer Football

By [Gabriel Kopp](#) | January 25

Mercer club sports add wrestling team

By [Isaiah Lyseight](#) | January 27

Athletics announces expanding facilities

# Best Website

3rd Place

Division B

# *The Stallion* Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

The screenshot shows the homepage of 'The Stallion' website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, About, News, Lifestyles, Opinions, Entertainment, Agriculture, Sports, Digital, and Comics. On the right side of the navigation bar, there is a 'Sign in / Join' link. Below the navigation bar is a header section featuring the website's logo, 'The Stallion', which includes a silhouette of a horse. To the left of the logo is a weather widget showing '49.2° Tifton'. To the right of the logo are social media icons for Instagram, Facebook, and a search icon. Below the header is a secondary navigation bar with links for HOME, ABOUT, NEWS, LIFESTYLES, OPINIONS, ENTERTAINMENT, AGRICULTURE, SPORTS, DIGITAL, and COMICS. The main content area features a large featured article titled 'Meet Tift County's Junior Gardeners' with a photo of children holding flowers. To the right of this article are three smaller article thumbnails: 'Local Musician Shines Bright on Campus', 'Where's 'Half-Life 3?', and 'It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia'. At the bottom left, there is a 'NEWS' section header. At the bottom right, there is a yellow 'Newsletter Sign-Up' button. The footer contains the URL 'https://abacstallion.com/2024/02/13/meet-tift-countys-junior-gardeners/' and the text 'Georgia Set to Get its First'.

# Best Website

2nd Place  
Division B

# Six Mile Post

Georgia Highlands College

HOME ABOUT US & JOBS STAFF CONTACT US



# SIX MILE POST

*The Student Voice*



Enter Search Term

NEWS FEATURES OPINION ENTERTAINMENT SPORTS PODCASTS PRINT ARCHIVES



### Trending Stories

"Godzilla Minus One" continues the Kaiju's legacy



Dive into Chattahoochee's legacy at Cartersville with Sally Bethea



Zoom to Teams: a change for online communication



Photo Gallery: CL Tidwell given Presidential Award for Community Impact



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GHC Foundation celebrates success at



# Best Website

1st Place  
Division B

# The Roar

Piedmont University

The screenshot shows the homepage of 'The Stallion' website. At the top is a dark navigation bar with links for Home, About, News, Lifestyles, Opinions, Entertainment, Agriculture, Sports, Digital, and Comics, along with a 'Sign in / Join' link. Below this is a white header area featuring the website's logo 'The Stallion' with a horse silhouette, a location indicator '49.2° Tifton', and social media icons for Instagram, Facebook, and a search icon. A secondary navigation bar lists categories: HOME, ABOUT, NEWS, LIFESTYLES, OPINIONS, ENTERTAINMENT, AGRICULTURE, SPORTS, DIGITAL, and COMICS. The main content area is a grid of articles. The largest article is 'Meet Tift County's Junior Gardeners' from the Agriculture section, dated February 13, 2024, by Cassandra Uchida. To its right are two smaller article thumbnails: 'Local Musician Shines Bright on Campus' (News) and 'Where's 'Half-Life 3?'' (Opinions). Below the main article is a 'NEWS' section header and a 'Newsletter Sign-Up' button. The footer contains a URL and a snippet of an article titled 'Georgia Set to Get its First'.

# Improvement Award 3rd Place

## Six Mile Post Georgia Highlands College



sixmilepost.com

Vol. 53, #2

The Student Voice of Georgia Highlands College

Rome, GA

November 13, 2023

# SIX MILE POST

Since 1972

## Conference inspires attendees to 'Charge Into Leadership'

By Savannah Pollocks

On Oct. 13, the Cartersville campus hosted the third annual "Charge Into Leadership" conference. This conference invited others to listen and speak with community leaders who have careers in entrepreneurship, politics and education.

Keynote speaker Steve Dennis, an international entrepreneur and life coach, mentioned the importance of knowing and understanding self-leadership skills.

"I want to talk to you today about how to be a real success, and what I mean by a real success is that we understand it is not a destination, but a journey," Dennis said. "The most powerful words you will ever utter are to yourself, about yourself when you are by yourself."

Following the welcome presentation, guests broke out into sessions to hear from different faculty members and speakers from the

entrepreneurship or 'Women in Leadership' panels.

In the beginning of the 'Women in Leadership' panel, the topic of support in leadership roles was the center of discussion.

"I find myself often referring to my team as truly the people who are doing all of the good work, and I would just say they inspire me daily to do better," Dean of Atrium Health Floyd School of Health Sciences, Lisa Jellum said.

Dean of Business and Professional Studies, Melanie Largin said, "I think that's really a tremendous aspect of when you get into a leadership position. Finding those people who are in your support group on a day-to-day basis that will forgive you when you do things wrong and support you when you do things right."

A few minutes before the entrepreneur panel began, the speakers shared when they realized they would



SAVANNAH POLLOCKS | PHOTOGRAPHER

Keynote speaker, Steve Dennis, had guests close out the welcome presentation with a motivational exercise.

pursue their current career paths.

"I knew at a very young age that I had politically called parents, so I just grew up in politics my whole life," Mayor Cosby Johnson said. In 2022, Johnson became the second African American to hold the title of major in Brunswick, Georgia.

IT Director of Fidelity

National Information Services, Aaron Perry said, "I've always been inquisitive with a very keen sense for technology and how it can be incorporated into our lives to make them better."

"I've cleaned for over 10 years so now I have a cleaning business, but I never really thought that was something I wanted to

do," MJK Cleaning Services owner, Michelle Douglas said. "I actually didn't know until two years ago when I went to Georgia Highlands for business management."

During the panel, each shared the different paths they took and the experiences they had along the way,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**"I hope you fail, because if you're not failing then you're not trying,"**  
- Trista Sanford



# THE SPECTATOR

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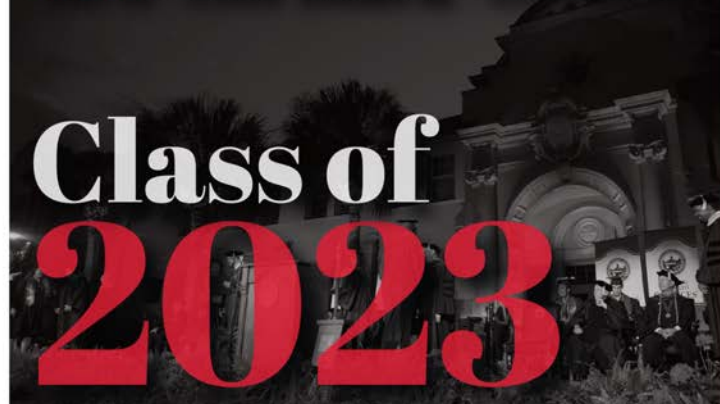


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3

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2  
0  
2  
3

Gavin Ponder

# Improvement Award

1st Place

## *The Stallion*

Abraham  
Baldwin  
Agricultural  
College

Vol. 70 Iss. 05  
November 2, 2023



Cover by Anslee James

p. 2 ABAC Hosts Walk a Mile	p. 3 Nursing Student Becomes Campus Celebrity	p. 6 We Need to Be Kind	p. 15 Wiregrass Fall Market Opens
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# General Photography Excellence

3rd Place

*The Roar*  
Piedmont  
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**TIME TO CELEBRATE**

**April 27 2023**

*This newspaper is made in collaboration with The Northeast Georgian*

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# — THE CAMPUS CARRIER —

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Vol. 115, Issue 11

## Football season finishes earlier than anticipated



**Football team  
accomplishes a near  
perfect record this season**  
Read more on page 4

Nico Klementzos | CAMPUS CARRIER

# General Photography Excellence 2nd Place

## *Campus Carrier* Berry College

NEWS 2

OPINIONS 3

SPORTS 4

ARTS AND LIVING 6

NEWS 8

# General Photography Excellence 1st Place

*The Red  
& Black*  
University  
of Georgia



A2 IT'S A MATCH

Seniors get college letters

A6 BASKETBALL IS BACK

Previewing Georgia's teams

B3 LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION

Student influencers find success

## The Red & Black

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WINNERS INSIDE

VOL. 131 | No. 13 | Athens, Georgia

Thursday, November 16, 2023

### REMEMBERING Devin Willock

Loved ones keep  
the memory of  
No. 77 alive



Devin Willock holds a memento with Devin Willock's number, 77, at Fenwick Catholic High School in Paterson, New Jersey, on Friday, Nov. 10, 2023. PHOTO BY ATHLETIC



Devin Willock holds Devin Willock's former New Milford high school basketball jersey outside her home in New Milford, New Jersey, on Friday, November 10, 2023 next to a tree planted by her and her three sons and brother for Mother's Day. PHOTO BY ATHLETIC

Devin Sawyer

Devin Willock's dog still has a special place in her heart every day of her life, hoping to be his son.

"Kodie, it's his son," Sawyer says to the black Labrador retriever.

Between her and Sawyer's other dog, Nova, Kodie is always the highlight of the two. "Go back to bed."

Who doesn't have very often, but Sawyer was never stay mad at her Kodie's, after all, Devin's dog.

Sawyer used to spend with her son, Devin Willock, close to his time in the morning as he made his way to class in GA and she made her way to work in New York as a news presenter. The regular check-ins were like clockwork for the mother and son, but not this year—until the day he abruptly reported himself for the Willock family and he was gone.

Devin was an offensive forward, No. 77 for the University of Georgia football team, who played in both national championship victories in 2002 and 2003. But beyond that, according to his family and friends, he was extraordinary.

"Remembering Devin, he was a positive person, he was a bright person," Sawyer said. "I think he was the same way all the time... he was forever smiling."

Devin Willock and Georgia football recruiting analyst Chandler LeFevre died in an accident on Jan. 10 in Atlanta, Georgia, in the early hours of the morning off at the national championship celebration parade. His name came as a complete shock to his family and friends in Georgia as well.

"Devin, he was excited about this year," Sawyer said.

"This was going to be his year. He planned, he was going to work hard, he was going to do what he had to do. He was going to get it done this year. He was ready."

SEE WILLOCK COVER PAGE



Devin Willock looks out of the window of her home. PHOTO BY ATHLETIC

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## Wildcats sink Vikings in Winnersville Classic

Jack Calhoun IV

Sports Editor  
jcalhoun@valdosta.edu

Valdosta High came back to defeat their region and cross-town rival, Lowndes High to win this year's edition of the Winnersville Classic.

In another instant classic showdown between these two region foes, the Wildcats 5-2 (1-0) took a 37-27 victory from the Vikings 3-3 (0-1), in their region opener.

With a rivalry name like "the Winnersville Classic," everyone in Lowndes County showed up to be a part of this electric atmosphere, as Bazemore-Hyder Stadium was rocking Friday night. While the Wildcats went on to win, it seemed that careless penalties would be their downfall, as even with home field advantage, Valdosta played sloppy in the first half.

The Vikings took advantage of the Wildcats mistakes in the first half, as they entered the locker room leading 19-14.

"We preach four quarters here at Valdosta," said Valdosta High Head Coach Shelton Felton in regard to how the Wildcats could respond.

As both teams came out for the

second half, Lowndes eventually took a 27-14 lead, which would be the last points scored by the Vikings that night.

After taking a double-digit lead, the Vikings then shared the same struggles with careless penalties that Valdosta did in the first half, which according to Vikings Head Coach Adam Carter, isn't the type of team that Lowndes High is.

"We're not built for first-and-15, first-and-20," Carter said. "That ain't who we are. You got to quit shooting yourself in the foot."

Valdosta came out on a tear after falling behind 13 points, as they cashed in on two touchdown drives to retake the lead, as the fourth quarter began with the Wildcats leading 28-27.

As time was starting to tick away, Valdosta needed to pad their lead, which is when they decided to pull off what would be the play of the game.

Both the Vikings and Wildcats did well with running the ball, which is why Valdosta drew up an HB Pass that ended up resulting in a touchdown to extend the Wildcat lead 35-27.

"We knew we had to get something going," said Felton. "We had worked on it all year long,



Lowndes junior linebacker Coleman Lewis pursues Valdosta senior wide receiver Jamil Williams on a kickoff.

and one of the guys wanted to go with it. We rolled with it, and it worked out for us."

On the ensuing Lowndes possession, the Vikings would be sacked in their own end zone, resulting in a safety.

As the clock struck triple-zero on the scoreboard, the Wildcats

reigned victorious 37-27.

Felton and the rest of the Wildcat fan base celebrated their victory as well as retaining the Winnersville Classic trophy for yet another year.

"We finally had a chance to show that we're going to fight until the end. We didn't quit, and

we kept fighting," Felton said.

Both teams will be in action Friday, Oct. 13 as Lowndes High returns home to Martin Stadium to host the Dunbar High Tigers while Valdosta High hits the road to take on their region opponent Richmond Hill.

Photo courtesy of Austin Bruce/The Spectator.

# Best Campus Community Service: Sports 2nd Place Division A

Austin Bruce

Co-Editor in Chief  
abruc@valdosta.edu

Name, image and likeness, or what is more commonly known as NIL, has swept the sports world in the past couple of years.

Since its introduction at the college level in 2021, we've seen a revolution in college athletics that's allowed student-athletes to make serious money while playing sports.

Though NIL has been beneficial to many athletes who might not get the chance to play professionally, concerns have arisen from NIL expansion. High school athletic associations across the country have passed regulations that have allowed high school athletes to cash in on NIL.

The Georgia High School Association (GHSAA) was one of the most recent athletic associations to approve of NIL regulations. That decision came on Oct. 2, making Georgia the 30th state to allow high school athletes to profit off their name, image and likeness.

I'm not taking a stance against NIL. In fact, I believe that NIL has done wonders for the college game. My big concern with high school NIL stems not from players getting paid but from how it's to be regulated.

NIL regulation has been a hot topic since it's introduction to college sports. Bringing it to the



Graphic courtesy of Gavin Ponder/The Spectator.

high school level has only caused more issues to arise.

Georgia ranks 12th in the U.S. for the highest number of private and public high schools with 808 high schools. While not every school in Georgia is associated with the GHSAA, there is a legitimate concern that every school in the state will abide by the rules.

Still, the GHSAA, like most high school associations, has put in place rules meant to control how NIL is used. Such rules include:

-Players are unable to profit off

of a specific athletic performance or achievement.

-Compensation is not meant to be an incentive to remain enrolled at a school.

-Players are prohibited from using school "marks" (school name, logos, uniforms, mascots, etc.).

These rules, in theory, are meant to prevent NIL from getting out of hand. However, enforcing these policies seems like a next to impossible task.

Just looking at the college level, there have been numerous

instances of schools using NIL for recruiting purposes. Furthermore, coaches have spoken out against NIL, believing it has led to tampering within programs through the use of the transfer portal.

Louisiana State University head football coach Brian Kelly is just one of many coaches who have spoken out about NIL relocations.

"College athletics is at a crossroads if this doesn't get fixed," Kelly said in an interview with ESPN in June. "Where's Title IX in all this? Where's Division

II sports? Where's Division III sports? If every state is tailoring bills to their own self-interest rather than the health of college athletics as a whole, that's not going to work."

With how NIL currently operates, each state has its own guidelines as to how athletes can get compensated. There is no uniform standard that every state has to follow, allowing some states to get a leg up on other states.

Currently, there is nothing stopping university boosters from forming groups to pool NIL money to attract higher-profile recruits. Having such a thing happen at the high school level would be detrimental to high school athletics.

In an interview with the Knoxville News Sentinel in July 2022, Eckler Sports CCO Tim Prukop shared how high school collectives would be impossible to stop.

"What would be terrible is if each high school created its own collective and tried to bring kids from one school to the other, although we may see that."

Prukop said. "There's no way that anybody could prevent somebody from setting up an LLC, taking in money and then giving money to somebody for something that they do."

There isn't a need to reverse course on NIL. However, not changing how it's regulated could have dire consequences down the line.

# The Spectator

## Valdosta State University

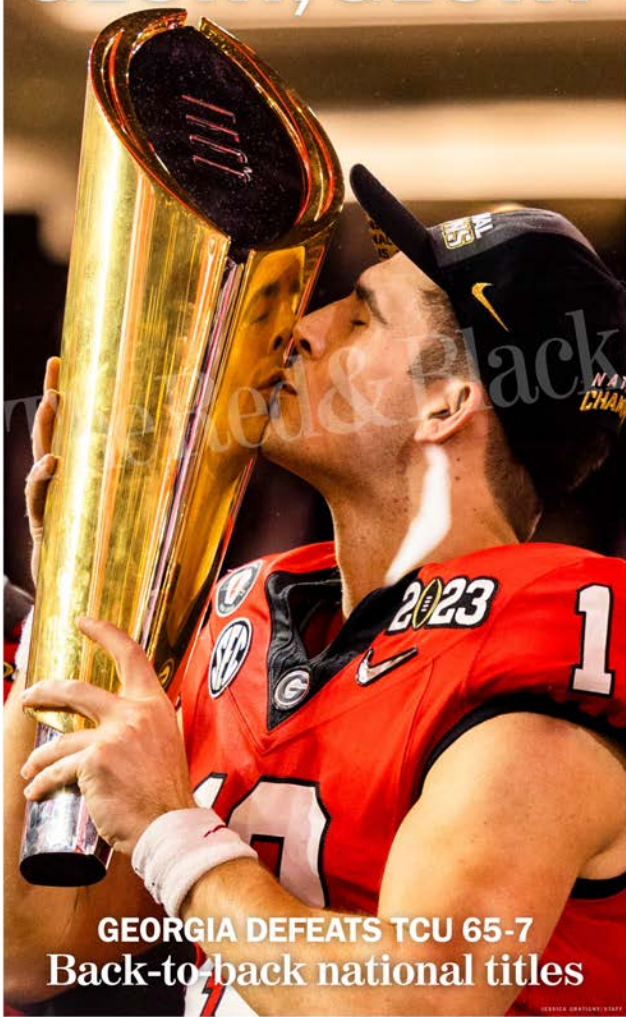
**Best Campus  
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# Best Campus Community Service: Sports 3rd Place Division B

## The Stallion Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

# Sports

Jalen Edmondson  
Editor



November 16, 2023

## Stallion Baseball Right Around the Corner

OWEN WILLIS  
Staff Writer

The Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College Stallions baseball team is looking to build off a strong 2022-2023 season in which they finished with a 31-30 record finishing runner up in the Georgia Collegiate Athletic Association (GCAA) Tournament.

The Stallions will be led by Head Coach Luis Calvo, who was promoted to the position after the departure of longtime head coach Kevin Godwin in August of this year. Calvo, who is entering his sixth season coaching college baseball and his third-year coaching ABAC baseball, is looking to surpass the great success that was the season prior.

"We have a lot of talent on this team," Calvo said. "We have a good mix of experienced players and young guys who are ready to contribute. We're excited to get started and see what we can accomplish."

The Stallions look to improve on their back-to-back 30+ win seasons and host the GCAA Tournament Trophy in 2024. According to ABAC Baseball Manager Brice Moore, be on the lookout for pitchers Lucas Morici and Terry Garmon to carry the load on mound and have stellar seasons once again.

Moore also mentioned outfielder Joe Fisher and first baseman Chasin Cash when talking about influential players to watch this season. Moore had great things



ABAC Stallions Baseball during a dugout spring 2023. Photo by Fransisco Garcia.

to say about the relief pitching from Nick "Tiny" Milbrandt and plate warrior Drew Rothschild. The return of CJ "Chop" Rose was highly anticipated from Moore, as the last time he graced the green and gold he led the team in homers.

The Stallions will play a challenging schedule in 2024, including games against several NCAA Division I opponents. The team accomplished being runner up in the GCAA Tournament and leading the GCAA in almost every offensive category while

having a combined team GPA of 3.26. ABAC Baseball on X confirms that last season they led runs, runs per game, hits, doubles, extra base hits (X BHI), total bases, runs batted in (RBIs), batting average, on base percentage (OBP), and slugging (SLG).

When asked about replicating last season's success Calvo replied, "We're looking forward to the challenge, we think we have a team that can compete with anyone. We're excited to get out there and prove it."

Get ready to support ABAC Baseball at their scrimmage the week of Nov. 6 and during the spring semester as the hunger for the title grows.  
Go Stallions!



ABAC Baseball team of spring 2023. Photo by Fransisco Garcia.



ABAC baseball team during national anthem spring 2023. Photo by Fransisco Garcia.

## Piedmont Women's Lacrosse Announces New Assistant Coach

By Chloe Spradlin, *Sports Editor*



Piedmont women's lacrosse will open their spring season with new coaches in new roles.  
PHOTO// Piedmont University Athletic Communications

Piedmont women's lacrosse welcomes Emilee Heffner as the newest member to their coaching staff. This comes shortly after former assistant coach Brooke Thacker was elevated to head coach earlier this fall.

Thacker said: "I want someone that the girls can go to, and I think she can connect with them super, super well. The way she carries herself, I think she's going to be a great addition to our team. I'm super excited. She's already been helping with the defense, so that's been a good start."

This is Heffner's first full time coaching position, having previously served as a volunteer assistant women's lacrosse and women's soccer coach for Oglethorpe University. Prior to coaching, Heffner was a two-sport athlete, playing soccer and lacrosse for the Stormy Petrels. Over her lacrosse career, she amassed 38 starts in 48 games over five years in defense at Oglethorpe.

Heffner said: "It's awesome, I absolutely love it. I couldn't ask for a better job. The team is fantastic."

Women's lacrosse have spent the last two months this offseason conditioning and preparing for their spring season. They had a fall play day on Oct. 28, where they scrimmaged against three other

universities to prepare for their regular season next semester.

"I think we're trying to implement things that I've done at Ogle that I think worked well for us in the fall, and bringing it here and trying to see if it works well with this team," Heffner said. "I haven't been around the program at all. I think it's helpful for me coming in not knowing anything and having a clean slate, and being able to bring in different ideas that maybe they haven't had in the past."

Thacker spent the last two years as Piedmont's assistant coach before being announced as head coach this August. This is Thacker's first head coaching position in her career. Both Thacker and Heffner will enter new territory this season.

Thacker said: "We have similar mindsets, so when we're planning practice we have the same thought process. Then she'll kind of come up with a few things I might not have thought of and vice versa, which I think is great when we're tackling different things throughout the day."

Piedmont women's lacrosse will open their regular season next spring on Feb. 14, 2024, against Heffner's alma mater, Oglethorpe University. Keep up to date with women's lacrosse's upcoming season at [piedmontlions.com](http://piedmontlions.com)

**Best Campus  
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Sports  
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Division B**

***The Roar***  
Piedmont  
University

# Best Campus Community Service: Sports 1st Place Division B

# Campus Carrier Berry College

## Berry athletes earn SAA player of the week awards

**Bradynn Belcher**  
assistant sports editor

There is no I in team. This is a statement that has been ingrained into athletes for years to a point that it has become a core value to many collegiate athletes competing in team sports.

We is greater than me. This is another cliché that many athletes can recite off the top of their heads as if it was the alphabet.

Team sports, especially at the collegiate level, emphasize the importance of obtaining a "team first" mentality. Individual accomplishments are never individual, but team accomplishments. At the end of the day, athletes on the same team wear the same name on their chest, giving up their individuality for a purpose they deem greater than themselves.

The Southern Athletic Association (SAA) has created a culture for team and individual recognition, providing athletes from SAA affiliated schools the opportunity to be honored for standout performances throughout their respective seasons.

SAA awards include Academic Honor Roll, All-Conference Teams, All-Sportsmanship Teams, Commissioner's Cup, and Man and Woman of the Year. These prestigious awards offer teams and individuals another facet of competition on and off the field throughout the year.

The SAA only distributes these awards once a year, risking the chance of an athlete losing sight and competitive drive for these awards throughout their long seasons.

Luckily, the SAA rewards Athlete of the Week awards to individuals from every SAA sanctioned sport throughout the year, giving athletes tangible individual goals to compete for throughout their respective seasons.

SAA Athlete of the Week awards have proven to be a hot commodity for Berry athletes. In just four weeks, eight Berry athletes, representing four sports, have already claimed this prestigious honor.

Junior running back Josh Rodgers won the first SAA Football Offensive Athlete of the Week award of his career on Sept. 5th for his dominating contribution in Berry's

opening season 67-43 victory over Huntingdon College. The Griffin native ran for 194 yards and two touchdowns. Despite Rodgers' exceptional statistics and performance, he was not expecting to finally win his first SAA Football Offensive Athlete of the Week award.

"I try to never look at how many yards I have or anything because I always look at what I could do better," Rodgers said. I guess you could say it is a dream come true for any player."

Though this is an individual recognition, Rodgers exhibited his team first mentality as he was adamant about the support he received from his teammates after this honor was announced by the SAA.

"I couldn't have done it without my offensive line," Rodgers said. "My teammates were super proud and super happy because I'm not a guy that talks too much, so I didn't even acknowledge the award myself. My teammates were really happy, and they kept reposting [the award] and talked to me all week about it. That was just a good feeling to have."

Right side hitter for the Vikings volleyball team, Bella Boston, secured her first SAA Offensive Athlete of the Week award on Sept. 18 after a week of dominating the court with 28 kills against regionally and nationally ranked opponents.

Like Rodgers, Boston said this was not a goal she set for herself at the beginning of the season, but her individual and team training set her up for success in high pressure situations.

"The key is to push each other in practice each and every day just to get better," Boston said. "If one person is struggling, [we build] them up and really work on the mental side of [volleyball] as well, we talk a lot about like mental recoveries and that has really been like a big thing for me, especially because I feel like I do well in pressure situations because my teammates have helped me to reset after each point and be being willing to make an error and bounce back from it."

Boston said that individual achievement is not the only factor in the SAA league office determining an award recipient. A Berry player winning this honor is a direct reflection of how successful the team is doing at that point in the season.

"I think a lot of it just kind of shows the team aspect and how well your team is doing because it truly is, no matter what individual gets the award, it truly is based on how your

team is doing," Boston said. "It really shows how well your team works together and supports you in that specific moment and that specific week."

For a player to be considered by the SAA as a player of the week award recipient, their coaches must look at each of their players' statistical performances from the previous week and choose which player to nominate to the SAA based on who has the best chance of winning. In athletes with a competitive drive, this could foster internal competition within the team.

Head volleyball coach Caitlyn Moriarty does not worry about this as she nominates one of her players. Moriarty does not see it as an individual award, but a reflection on the success of the team.

"Our players are very supportive and proud of one another, particularly their positional group," Moriarty said. "We view all awards as team awards because it's such a team sport."

Senior Teagan Fritts is not a stranger to

earning SAA accolades. The golfer racked up her second player of the week award on Sept. 15 after finishing in first place at the Transylvania Fall Invitational in Lexington, Ky. Though golf is arguably an individual sport with few team aspects, she said that she would much rather earn a team win at a tournament than an individual player of the week award.

"I would rather win the conference tournament," Fritts said. "Especially it being my senior year, I want to see the team succeed and go to nationals."

Additional Berry SAA Player of the Week award recipients for this season include Blake Hembree (24C) and Hunter Coleman (26C) representing the Berry football program. Maggie Jones (23C) was the Women's Soccer Defensive Athlete of the Week for Sept. 5. Volleyball players Jazy Innis (24C) and Kate Whittle (25C) round out the award winners thus far this season, receiving this recognition for the week of Sept. 11.

Though Berry athletes are well represented in the weekly awards, teammates often think that the Vikings deserve more recognition.

"I think that something really cool about our team is we have so many people that can get weekly awards every week because we do have a big bench that can all contribute on a different day," Boston said. "I really think that anyone on our team deserves a weekly award."

Our players are very supportive of one another, particularly their position group.

Caitlyn Moriarty

I guess you could say it is a dream come true for any player.

Josh Rodgers



### September SAA Standouts








**Football**

Josh Rogers, junior: Offensive Player of the Week (09/05)  
 Hunter Coleman, sophomore: Special Teams Player of the week (09/11)  
 Blake Hembree, senior: Offensive Player of the Week (09/11)

**Women's Golf**

Teagan Fritts, senior: Player of the Week (09/15)

**Women's Soccer**

Maggie Jones, graduate student: Defensive Player of the Week (09/05)

**Volleyball**

Jazy Innis, senior: Offensive Player of Week (09/11)  
 Kate Whittle, junior: Defensive Player of Week (09/11)  
 Bella Boston, junior: Offensive Player of Week (09/18)

# Best Campus Community Service: Features 3<sup>rd</sup> Place *The Stallion* Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

## Lifestyles

Talia Guthrie  
Editor



August 31, 2023

## How to Become a Student Worker



JALEN EDMONDSON  
Staff Writer

Interested in getting an on-campus job through work study?

Sometimes, students attending college need a little extra money. Getting an on-campus job through the work-study program can help with this problem.

Right now, there are about 70 on-campus jobs at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC), and the number is constantly changing. We have jobs from

RNA, office duties, library, and media workers. But what does it really take to be a student worker?

Some students are unaware of the student hiring jobs on campus. The Student Worker Hiring Event that took place on August 17 helped students become aware of the on-campus job opportunities.

Vickie Bryant, Administrative Assistant of Finance Operations at ABAC, helps students with processing forms and referrals. She also helped with the event. She said, "Our goal is to reach students that do not know that there are student jobs available

on campus," Bryant said. Student workers benefit from working on campus by getting hands-on experience in their field.

Another aspect of work study is that the program tends to be more flexible with your schedule, creating more opportunities for study time. Financial Aid Counselor Margo Ransom works with students authorizing the eligibility of work study.

"They don't have to pay the money back. It's free lending that they can earn in addition to whatever financial aid that they receive," Ransom said. "One thing I've found, too, is it's a good way for students to

network." Other than looking for eligibility, financial counselors also look for students who are responsible and motivated to work.

If you are interested in becoming a student worker, you can go to the ABAC website and click on Human Resources, scroll down and you will see student workers. After that three links will appear, and you will see the qualifications.

The Stallion student newspaper also gets work study. If you are interested contact the chief editor Delaney Garcia.

## Pre-Vet Cattle Classic: A New Era



STEPHEN KARDAMIS  
Staff Writer

On September 9, ABAC's Pre-Vet club will host its first ever cattle show, the Cattle Classic.

Featuring 110 head of cattle, the event will open with showmanship, during which students are judged based on their ability to properly show their animal and maintain its behavior.

Once showmanship has concluded, the heifers and steers will be showcased, after which prizes will be given out to the night's best performers ranging from banners to high-quality belt buckles.

The event's participants include fifth to twelfth grades from Georgia as well as several surrounding states.

The club's advisor, Dr. Jenny Harper, hopes to use the event "as an opportunity to recruit for ABAC as well as provide our club members with the opportunity to gain some leadership skills from such a large event."

For those that are unfamiliar with this organization, the Pre-Vet club serves as a way of giving ABAC students a bridge into the veterinary world, allowing them to get hands-on experience with animals.

Dr. Harper emphasized her goal of using the experiences offered by the organization to enhance her students' resumes by "offering students participation in workshops at

it enabled her to gain work experience while building bonds with other Pre-Vet students.

"Pre-Vet club has really got me ahead in helping to do what I want to do," she continued, "and I've made lifelong friends through this club."

These passionate sentiments were echoed by fellow Pre-Vet member and former Ms. ABAC Jazzmyn Armstrong, who said, "I've been able to build my resume the way I wanted to because of Pre-Vet club."

Both commended Dr. Harper for creating an environment where students can prepare to succeed while finding a second family, with many members affectionately referring to her as "our mom at work."

In their closing words, Dr. Harper and her Pre-Vet family encouraged ABAC students to get involved with their work, stressing that Pre-Vet's doors are open to anyone, whether they're in animal science, biology, or any other field.

"We don't have a closed-door policy," Dr. Harper proudly declared a fact which, judging by the flood of experience-hungry students present at the group's very first meeting, is not likely to change in the near future.

One such opportunity presented itself to Olivia, who was able to attain an internship at UGA's Tifton diagnostic center through her involvement with the Pre-Vet club.

She also emphasized the personable nature of the organization, describing how

Photo of pre-vet club members. Photo by Stephen Kardamis.

the UGA Tifton veterinary lab... paid internships... volunteer opportunities," and more.

The club does more than just work for its students, as many expressed at their first club meeting this past Tuesday which drew a crowd of over forty interested students.

Pre-Vet member Olivia Spooner praised the organization, calling it "a highlight of being [at] ABAC... [with] endless opportunity."

One such opportunity presented itself to Olivia, who was able to attain an internship at UGA's Tifton diagnostic center through her involvement with the Pre-Vet club.

She also emphasized the personable nature of the organization, describing how

# ‘Who dun it?’ - Naming the faces that prepared Berry for the semester

Sam Askew  
managing editor

Berry College is not quiet during the summer. Many organizations, offices and staff members stay busy throughout the year, always preparing for the return of students in the fall. While majority of the students are off campus, projects that were put off are in full swing. With the absence of students comes space and time to get renovations done, deep cleaning and landscaping.

Among the many offices that stay busy during the summer is Physical Plant. Whether it is housekeeping or the grounds team, Physical Plant is stacked all year. Dorms are made ready for incoming and returning students, also while transitioning students who stayed on campus during the summer. Not to mention the immense amount of landscaping that needs to be maintained. All of this is done through the office of Physical Plant.

Another office that remains busy through the summer is residence life. Residence life utilizes the summer to implement new ideas and train new resident assistants (RA). RA training begins late in the summer and goes on until the beginning of the semester. Stephen Swieton, associate director of residence life, has remained busy since students left campus in May.

“Summer is often, in a lot of ways, busier than the school year,” Swieton said. “We had about 300 students that were on campus for each part of the summer.”

With the summer comes May-mester, the period in which students remain on campus and take summer classes. Students are transitioned from their spring semester housing to their May-mester housing, according to Swieton. Students must be transitioned between all of the summer work blocks and then be transferred into their fall housing.

“You’ve got to get those students from where they’re at to where they need to be [for fall semester],” Swieton said.

In addition to all this moving around, Berry also hosts Student Orientation Advising and Registration (SOAR) over the summer. During SOAR, incoming students meet their advisors, get adjusted to housing and LifeWorks, meet fellow incoming students and prepare for life on campus in the fall.

“You’ve also got SOAR, and we’re part of that, both with presentations to students and parents, but we also offer other activities,” Swieton said.

The office of residence life also has to use this time to assign incoming students to their housing while also getting all the buildings ready, according to Swieton.

“It’s a good time to try and get big projects done because there are fewer students, but we always have students on campus,” Swieton said. “So, there’s constantly stuff happening.”

With the past few years, new developments with regards to residence halls went into place. Last year, residence life implemented a new engagement model. This model emphasizes connection with RAs and their residents, according to Swieton, focusing on how to point residents to the services that residence life offers.

“It’s ‘how do we do things like welcoming communities?’” Swieton said. “It’s ‘how do we connect students with the

services that we offer?’ It’s helpful for the RAs to see how to do things. It’s helpful to us for how manage, like ‘here’s how we’re looking at things.’ It’s helpful for residence to know that this is what to expect to get from a conversation with an RA.”

This year, one of the changes coming to residence life is the use of Jewel Cottage.

“The only big thing that will be different this year is that we will be using part of Jewel Cottage for students,” Swieton said. “We’ll have a few students there, but only for fall semester. We’re just using it briefly.”

There is also a new door access system that is slowly being implemented throughout campus.

“A big thing that has begun and that will continue throughout the year is that the door access systems are changing across campus,” Swieton said. “Elmwood [Cottage] and Thomas Berry are already on the new system, so we’re learning a lot about that new system. As we go throughout the year, we will continue to transition the other buildings. That’s a big goal, making sure we can do that and do it well.”

With its eyes turned to the new year, residence life has a few goals that it is keeping in mind. One of those goals is getting the message out about locking doors, according to Swieton. In addition, Swieton emphasized the importance of staying true to residence life’s mission and values.

“A lot of things we focused on with the RAs and we’re hoping that residents will continue to focus on throughout the semester is that we want to be a department that is focused on its mission and values,” Swieton said. “We want to make sure that what we say we’re gonna do is what we do.”

RA training is a big part of the work that residence life does over the summer, and is an important part of student life that often goes unnoticed. This year, there are 84 RAs and 6 Head Residents, according to Swieton. RA training is an all-day commitment for the first couple of weeks before the semester begins.

“They start at 9 a.m. and go through dinner, and after dinner they do in-hall stuff,” Swieton said. “We tell them upfront that during training time, this is it. You know, until the first day of classes.”

Even on what could be considered “off-days,” RAs are working.

“[Some days], they don’t have any sessions in the afternoon, but that’s because they need to be doing room conditions before residents move into spaces,” Swieton said. “They’re walking spaces to make sure that rooms are ready, that they’re clean and there’s been no issues. They’ve got to get their door tags up. They’ve got to get their decorations up.”

Residence life also works closely with other offices on



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEPHEN SWIETON

Stephen Swieton, assistant director of residence life, is one of the many faces that prepared Berry for the semester.

campus to facilitate the best experience possible for incoming and returning students.

“It has been a big year,” Swieton said. “It’s not like it’s just Residence Life doing all these things by itself. We do work very closely with our custodial service teams, our facility services partners, Campus Police, and IT. There’s so many people that support us in what we’re doing. Certainly, the Dean of Students office and everything that they do.”

As the semester comes closer and closer, Residence Life is getting busier and busier.

“We’re gonna have well over 1,900 students moving into campus, and they’ll all be here within the next week,” Swieton said. “So, getting that many beds ready, getting that many rooms ready, getting the buildings ready, it’s a monumental undertaking.”

There are a few things that students should keep in mind as the year comes into play.

“Be patient,” Swieton said. “We’re doing the best that we can to get everything done. It is a lot of stuff. There’s a lot of moving parts, but as students move in, if they have issues, talk with your RA or your Head Resident. We can resolve things quickly if we know about them. And you know, it’s impossible for everything to be perfect, but most things will be. And take your trash out. Don’t leave cardboard boxes in the hallway.”

# Best Campus Community Service: Features 2nd Place Campus Carrier Berry College



# Best Campus Community Service: Features 1st Place

# The Red & Black

# University of Georgia

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

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## Senior season University System of Georgia gives students 62 and up free tuition

Sydney Bishop

Olyn Gee, 75, had always wanted to go to the University of Georgia. However, financial circumstances before ROTC or Zed Miller scholarships were introduced led him to community college. Instead, now, when he is between 12 years of attending UGA and two degrees, Gee is still taking in all the classroom education UGA has to offer. And the best part? Every class Gee has ever taken at the university has been free.

### Back to school

The University System of Georgia—which includes UGA, Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia College and State University and Georgia Southern University among many others—allows Georgia residents 62 years old and older to attend college at \$0 for an year. The senior citizens tuition waiver program has allowed many older Georgians to enroll as students at UGA.

The city centers on senior citizens' students cannot register for classes until all other students have, and dental, veterinary, medical and law schools are not covered. Students also must produce a birth certificate proving their age and meet all other university admission requirements.

According to the Georgia Educational Researcher, an academic journal, as of the 2015 fiscal year, 71.9% of the Georgia 62-and-up program were seeking degrees, 826 out of 1,161 students.

This leaves a good chunk of non-degree seeking students in the program. Like James Burns, 65, a former art teacher at Georgia College of Art and Design who has no plans to graduate anytime soon.

Burns found out about the program from Gee after he had started taking classes. Burns currently takes a mixture of art and French classes, and as a former art teacher with 30 years of experience in the medium, he wants to contribute more to the classroom.

"I kept wanting to seek out teachers and say, 'Hey, I've got this experience,'" Burns said. "I love to come in and do a one-day thing about how best to use Photoshop or the best way to tan [Adobe] Illustrator." Burns doesn't participate in the program for the degree but rather the structure and routine it gives him in retirement.

"At this point, I'm so retired ... what would I do with it?" Burns said. "It helps in a class where the project is due next week and you have to think about it and produce something."

One, on the other hand, has earned journalism and political science degrees through the program. He started taking classes in January 2011 and earned them and his wife from Canton, Georgia—where he was working as a wedding photographer—in Athens.

While Gee has taken full advantage of the program, he believes it is something that can open up of itself for many. "It's intimidating when [you're with] all the students who were at the top of their high school class ... that I think it's an excellent way for older persons to stay involved. Just to keep themselves young, surrounded by young people all the time. You start thinking more like a young person and less like a retired person," Gee said.

While working towards his journalism degree at UGA, Gee



Olyn Gee has been a member of the Georgia's senior citizens tuition waiver program since 2011. COURTESY OF UGA



Students at Georgia's commencement ceremony on Friday, May 12, 2023, at Sanford Stadium. ROBERT CHALKER/STAFF

## 4 things things that make the class of 2023 unique

Lilly Kerns

Every graduating class of seniors is special in its own way, but the class of 2023 is leaving the University of Georgia as an especially unique group of students. From experiencing a pandemic to celebrating some of UGA's biggest wins, these alumni will have stories to tell about their college years for the rest of their lives.

### Experiencing the pandemic

In March 2020, the world came to a halt when the coronavirus pandemic began affecting daily life. Most of the class of 2023 graduates were in their first college spring break at the time when they got the news that class would not resume in-person. This year's graduates had every year of college affected by the pandemic, with initial changes in their freshman year and lasting differences throughout their time in Athens. Classes switched online, Zoom entered daily routines, and student life changed forever. The class of 2023 had their college experience affected by health concerns, masking, testing, quarantining and more.

While life seems much more normal now, with optional masking and most aspects returning in-person, the class of 2023 will never be among the group of students who experienced getting their degree in the pandemic and working through the challenges of being in university throughout a global health event.

### Back-to-back football national championship victories

The class of 2023 experienced not one, but two college football national championships, unheard of in the history of Georgia football and rare in college football history in general.

As juniors and now seniors, these students cheered on the Bulldogs through two major wins, celebrating between the helmets and in the streets of Athens. Georgia's last national championship win hadn't taken place in over 48 years, making the 2021 and 2023 championships truly

memorable for enrolled students and a historic time in UGA's legacy.

### Turbulent election years

The recent Georgia state history by having two runoff elections, both while the class of 2023 attended UGA. Louisiana and Georgia are the only two states in the country that hold runoff elections in general elections when no candidate receives a majority of the vote. Runoffs took place in the 2021 US Senate elections and the 2022 midterm elections. On Jan. 5, 2021, Democratic Sen. Roy Blunt and Republican Sen. Tom Hovind defeated incumbent Sen. David Perdue and Kelly Loeffler, respectively. In the runoff, On Dec. 4, 2022, Democratic Sen. Raphael Warnock was re-elected to the US Senate, defeating Republican and former UGA running back Herschel Walker in the runoff.

As Georgia became a political battleground pummeling national attention, UGA's campus hosted candidates from both parties. The class of 2023 was on the frontlines of these pivotal moments, experiencing two runoffs in just four years. For reference, there have only been 12 statewide runoff elections in Georgia's history since its current election system was adopted in 1908.

### A changing Athens restaurant scene

With the trials and tribulations of the pandemic came a lasting change to the city UGA calls home. A number of Athens establishments closed their doors in the past four years, making the class of 2023 some of the last students to experience local spots.

Chocolate Lounge, The Get, Uncle Earl's Pub or Crub, The Max Canada, Mama Jew's Kitchens and Classic City Bar all shut their doors within this time frame. Even downtown chain restaurants Ruby Tuesday, Scrooge's Chicken, Member's Private Yogurt and Cinnabon have been replaced, contributing to a changing food scene.

While many restaurants were able to reopen, such as Oren's Whiskey, The Grill and The Clubhouse, the class of 2023 said goodbye to many local favorites for good.

even started writing for The Red & Black during the summer of 2019 to keep learning about writing at the suggestion of Burns' wife, Rebecca. Gee's first journalism professor at UGA and The Red & Black's former publisher.

### Why now?

For Amelia Pakiewicz, 43, an Athens resident since 2007, but back to school journey hasn't started just yet. Regardless, she's been dreaming of an opportunity like this for a long time.

Since 1991, Pakiewicz has had success making glass jewelry. However, her ultimate goal is to go back to school for fine arts and to find galleries to represent her. She admits her jewelry and time as a craft artist has its heyday in the '90s.

"[Black then, everybody had a lot more money to blow," Pakiewicz said. Back at school, Pakiewicz can focus on other mediums like painting and sculpting. But getting into the world of fine arts and to find galleries to represent her, she admits her jewelry and time as a craft artist has its heyday in the '90s.

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## GRADUATION REGALIA

At the University of Georgia's spring 2023

graduations and commencement ceremonies, graduates from various degrees and programs celebrated the milestone in regalia, most notably caps and gowns.

The tradition of the cap and gown dates back to the 12th and 13th centuries. Professors and students alike were given degrees, according to the American Council on Education.

In the late 19th century, representatives from U.S. colleges and universities met to make recommendations for the dress code still in use today, according to the UGA commencement website. The graduation dress code standard was established in 1923 by a newly formed committee created by ACEC, which also made updates and changes throughout the coming decades.

The color of caps and tassels, hoods and gowns—also known as doctoral regalia, vary based on this area and level of study—bachelor's, master's or doctorate.

Graduates completing their bachelor's wear blue traditional black robes and a maroon hood or tassel cap with a tassel representing their area of study.

Those graduating with their masters and doctoral degrees at UGA are distinguished by a black hood with silk lining in the color of their respective university. UGA hoods are class lined in red and black. The hood symbolizes a graduate's continued commitment to the pursuit of knowledge, according to the Princeton University Princetoniana Museum website.

Students graduating from UGA with their doctorate also wear a velvet tassel cap, gown and hood lined with velvet with three bands along the sleeves and a gold tassel. The three bands along the sleeve are used to represent the graduate's area of study.

Graduation dress is used to symbolize a student's achievement and dedication to the pursuit of knowledge. The graduation ceremony acknowledges a student's transition to the next stage of life with the moving of the tassel from right to left.

—Morgan Willis



# Best Campus Community Service: Editorial 3rd Place

*Six Mile Post*  
Georgia  
Highlands  
College

**6** February 20, 2023

sixmilepost.com **OP-ED**

## First Amendment rights under attack

By Six Mile Post Staff

The Six Mile Post is sponsoring First Amendment Awareness Week, celebrated Jan. 22 to Jan. 28. As a student newspaper, exercising our First Amendment right is important. The Six Mile Post is nothing without freedom of speech.

The First Amendment guarantees freedom of expression and Congress is prohibited from making laws restricting it. This has not stopped states from finding ways to censor citizens under the disguise of protecting students from harmful misinformation.

Many states started this attack by determining what students can and cannot be taught about slavery and the role racism has played in history. American history is rooted in slavery and racism, so this is censorship at its finest.

Many books are being pulled from public school libraries, notably books that promote anti-government control, pro-LGBTQIA+, women's awareness and anti-religion.

Florida has taken it as far as requiring training for public school librarians to limit "harmful materials" from entering classrooms. Many of these books are critical for student development and banning them gives students no choice but to seek this knowledge elsewhere.

There has been a rise of the "anti-woke" movement which is really a guise to silence ideals people in the movement do not like.

The banning of race-related content in Florida schools is an example of this. They believe that these books are brainwashing, but that's because it does not align with their viewpoints.

The recent First Amendment violations are censoring knowledge and expression for no good reason. Both sides of the aisle are more interested in getting their ideas across and using children as pawns to do so.

Citizens should not feel as though they can't express themselves and their ideals. America has always been prided as the "land of the free," but our freedom of speech is in more jeopardy now than ever.



CHRIS DANIEL | ARTIST



CHRIS DANIEL | ARTIST

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# EDITORIAL

## Keep the flame burning, Blazers

Many students have already noticed that this semester feels a bit ... different than usual. Maybe even the past few semesters, really.

Students seem to be suffering from mental burnout, whether that be from having senioritis, going to school while being a parent, having to juggle jobs, or all three. It is a constant fight to keep up with life while trying to keep up with the next assignment due for classes.

Though life may be a bit overwhelming no matter the obstacles, it is OK to not have a perfect college career no matter what classification you are.

It appears the new semester doesn't feel like a "new semester" to students but rather a continuation of the hardships that they had to endure from last fall semester.

Maybe four weeks for a fall break was too much for students. Getting to go home and be with friends and family with no scholastic obligations may be hard to get away from. Students may not be able to "turn off" relaxation mode and get their motivation back.

Online classes don't seem real to students and working at your own pace can be dangerous for some in terms of being timely. If keeping up with assignments,

keeping in touch with friends and family while also trying to keep a healthy sleep schedule was a problem for students a few months ago, it's best to target that issue and tackle it before they get too deep in the water.

Getting overwhelmed with classes and assignments can lead to stress and can escalate quickly from there.

Stress is directly linked to burnout, so staying on top of assignments and keeping in touch with your professors will help you with this. Many professors are understanding (aside from select few) about workload and the amount of time students possess in a day.

Set your priorities straight. Do what is important or most urgent first and work from that point.

It's okay to decline hanging out with friends when you have something due soon that your grade relies on. Although it is pretty early in the semester, it's best not to let it have a snowball effect.

Take breaks that don't involve losing the big picture. It's good to reward yourself for hard work, but don't get so involved in the reward that you forget why you got it.

When the going gets tough, there is always help. Remember it is OK to reach out to peers, seek professional help or see tutors

for help with classes and assignments.

Students can contact the VSU Health Service by calling 229-333-5886 or booking an appointment with the Academic Support Center by calling 229-333-7570, emailing asc@valdosta.edu with the tutor's name, subject/course, and time or visiting in-person at the ASC Front Desk (2nd Floor of Odum Library).

All of this is just to say listen to your body. Learn its worth and the signals it sends you when it is tired or stressed.

# Best Campus Community Service: Editorial 2nd Place

# *The Spectator* Valdosta State University

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out every Thursday!**



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STUDENT VOICES

The 'Divine Nine' Members of National Pan-Hellenic Council share experiences

During the early 20th century, some students at historically Black colleges and universities established nine Greek life organizations. These societies and fraternities make up the National Pan-Hellenic Council, or the "Divine Nine." While each organization has unique traditions, members share the common goal of uplifting the Black community.

The NPHC promotes the development of its members through various service projects, educational seminars and social activities. Its primary purpose continues to be community awareness and action. Many prominent alumni have been a part of the NPHC, such as Dr. Hamilton Holmes, Charlotte Hatcher Davis and Mary Frances Berry.

In 1990, Alpha Phi Alpha became the first member of the NPHC to establish a chapter at UGA. Over 10 years later, UGA commemorated the 100th anniversary of the NPHC with members on the West Lawn of the Old Student Center. On Feb. 13, members of Delta Sigma Theta celebrated their 118th national founding at Howard University.

The Red & Black asked members of NPHC societies and fraternities about their experiences in the organizations and what they value about their identities. Below are some of their experiences and photographs by Charon Barrett.

Best Campus Community Service: Editorial 1st Place



Simam Ahmed, Major Health promotion Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. "Being Sigma Gamma Rho showed me that I could have a sisterhood here, and we're just as unique and different. However, we will add our differences together and create something beautiful."

Been-Alpha Eno, Junior Major Computer science Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. "NPHC organizations are very impactful to me, so do your research [and] talk to each of our members because we will committed for a reason."

Rankin Odister, Sophomore Major: Communication speeches Omega Phi Phi Fraternity, Inc. "My fraternity is not a brotherhood, a scholarship, people striving for excellence. An Omega Phi Phi Fraternity, is a brotherhood. For excellence, is a brother's keeper, someone who is constantly raising the bar."

Anya Mark, Junior Major: Communication speeches Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. "As people who are creating more spaces for those who are not represented better, as we are never going to tell you that you cannot be a part of [the NPHC]."



The interior of Art Bookshop on South Lumpkin Street in Athens, Georgia. COURTESY: LARA GIBSON

Power of the printed page The importance and benefits of reading physical books

Gabrielle Gruzynski

This semester, I decided to sign up for two literature classes at the University of Georgia. However, Introduction to Creative Writing and American Literature from 1914 to the Present.

With that being said, I now have a stack of 13 imported paperback books, looting over my shelf. For some readers, being required to read these books may seem both daunting and daunting. For English and journalism majors such as myself, those 13 books are equivalent to pure heaven.

Needless to say, there always been an ardent reader from a young age. I remember sitting on the edge of my bed with stories and with my mom. As I flip my fingers along the embossed, old-line red covers of the Greek and Egyptian myths, mysteries of Nancy Drew and the central eight-bit Augusta Books.

I developed a fascination with reading as I aged. The thick paper, the aged smell, the worn-out spines, everything about those pages presented a book to be treasured. Cuddling myself an advocate for reading physical books would be an understatement.

Yet, being in the age of technology, readers opting for e-books or audiobooks. True, these book formats are more cost-efficient, environmentally-friendly and accessible to many readers. However, I still find the lack of interest in physical books disheartening.

In my advocacy for physical books, I tend to shop frequently at local bookstores in Athens. Art Bookshop, located in the heart of Five Points, seems to be a favorite store among frequent Athens readers.

Being an obvious proponent of the physical book, Art's mission is to remain both a "library independent bookstore" and "work in progress." "I wanted to investigate not only what I read but the potential benefits of reading physical books."

"The [last] book that I read that was hand-bound by Janet Gerdman in 2011, but she worked for years, probably five years before that day it opens," said Rachel Walkins, operations and events director at Art. "Finally, it was able to open in October of 2012. It was always a general-interest bookstore that would hold events, have book clubs [and] store for children."

be on the book magazine covers, but sometimes we do. We have waited to see what reviews all really want."

Print books seem to have a feel that most readers love. You can hold the book, turn the pages and physically feel the paper. There's something really special about that. Beyond aesthetics, there are many benefits to reading physical books, such as memory retention and information absorption.

Readers of print books usually remember more of a book's plot than readers of e-books do. Readers of physical books also score higher on their information into the book and overall understanding in a research study.

Beyond this, the potential distractions while reading are eliminated with a physical book. Links, scrolling, social media and advertisements all draw away from reading e-books because they limit the reader's focus. However, with the absence of this in a print book, readers are more likely to remember and retain what they have read.

This is especially true with younger readers who are experienced with electronics. Of course, there are arguments made for the e-book as well. E-books are usually cost less than print books do. But, despite the price gap, print books allow for an entire experience — one that cannot completely be replaced when opting for a book.

E-books may also be better for our environment but probably not to the extent that you would think.

"If you're reading books on an e-reader, you're consuming less paper," said Walkins. "However, devices [that] books are read on are hard to be recycled or [cannot be] at all. You [just] recycle a book."

The print book versus e-book debate is ancient and still being debated fervently. Print books simplify the joy of reading. In their own right, they feel more important. In the experience you gain from them, as Walkins puts it, "reading books can change our perception, our family, our classroom or our community. It's a privilege to be able to put books in the hands of readers."

Editor's note: Gabrielle Gruzynski is a publicist reporting in English and journalism.

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The Red & Black University of Georgia

Reading list

- Recommendations from Art Bookshop's Rachel Walkins:
A Little Death in America: Hanif Abdurrahman
Of course, there are arguments made for the e-book as well. E-books are usually cost less than print books do. But, despite the price gap, print books allow for an entire experience — one that cannot completely be replaced when opting for a book.

Corrections

We had a minor miscommunication with the mission of training journalists, we know that mistakes happen, and we do our best to correct them as quickly as possible. If you spot a factual error, please let us know by sending a correction to editor@redandblack.com. Corrections to items in print editions are published in the next possible print edition. Corrections for online-only items are posted on redandblack.com/corrections.



# Best Campus Community Service: News 3rd Place

# The Spectator Valdosta State University

**Jenna Arnold**  
Staff Writer  
jarnold@valdosta.edu

VSU has a new housing and residence life director. Dr. Ricky Clark. He joined the university in January and plans to make several changes.

Before Dr. Clark joined Blazer Nation, he worked for housing at Mercer University for 13 years. He received his bachelor's degree in history from the University of Southern Mississippi, his master's in college student personnel administration from the University of Central Arkansas and his doctorate in educational leadership from Mercer University.

Dr. Clark has devised numerous plans to make the residence and

living atmosphere more suitable for VSU students. He hopes for students to begin forming community relationships with each other and be given opportunities for new experiences.

"We have several lounges, kitchens and other common areas in the residence halls for students to collaborate," Dr. Clark said. "I would like housing staff to host floor dinners, game nights and study sessions to contribute to social and personal development and create memorable experiences."

He wishes to create a welcoming environment for fundamental friendships, saying spending time with peers outside of class is important to form strong bonds. Students living on campus already have occasional meet-

ings with their resident assistants, regarding their experiences during the school year that focus on potential improvement and academic success. Dr. Clark now wants to conduct surveys to ensure students enjoy the quality of their living conditions.

"We value our students' experiences and want to allow them to offer suggestions, concerns and ideas regarding what they would like to see while living on campus," Dr. Clark said. "I plan to create a satisfaction survey and host focus groups to gather feedback."

Student safety is also a top priority for Dr. Clark. Making sure that students living on campus feel safe and secure is important to him.

"I would like our students liv-

ing in the residence halls to be active participants in creating this safe environment," Dr. Clark said. "I would like for our students to report any suspicious activity, safety concerns or potential hazards to the housing staff or university Police Department. I want to make sure residents are aware of our emergency response procedures, including fire drills, inclement weather and other crisis responses in case of an emergency."

With the abundant changes occurring at VSU, costs are shifting for living are increasing in price for the best school year.

"Much research and analysis go into the decision to increase rates," Dr. Clark said. "Campus housing facilities must be main-

tained so that they are safe, functional and conducive to student living and learning. A university is also subject to inflation and rising costs of goods and services, like utilities and labor. Housing operations can be adversely affected by these rising costs. Renovations of existing housing facilities are necessary to improve university housing options."



Photo courtesy of VSU

## The International Program reorganizes

**Jasmine Hightower**  
Staff Writer  
jhightower@valdosta.edu

As VSU continues to make a few alterations within some of the academic programs, the International Program seems to be next on the list.

The International Program focuses on supporting international students, as well as exchange students, accepted into the program while also providing study abroad programs and opportunities for students native to VSU.

International students usually come to VSU either for one semester or for the entirety of their program. Usually, exchange students only participate for one semester, but they still get a great education.

"There are not many classes offered here, but I think I've gained some valuable experience," said Frina Shendel, foreign exchange student and mass media major. "Because it's a small town and small university, the town sometimes gets students involved in media business."

As the program begins its reorganization, there are some

positions that will no longer be available to help smooth the transition of our future international students.

International Student Adviser David Huffman is one of the few individuals who offer support to international students and help maintain their F-1 student visas and status. After the news of the reorganization, there was an announcement that the international student adviser position would unfortunately no longer continue.

"I don't feel bad, I'm taking the opportunity to go on an adventure," Huffman said. "We

tried to convince them it was a bad idea. My position comes with a lot of knowledge of the regulations regarding these F-1 visas and making sure we are maintaining their information once they get accepted."

The International Program will still be available for the upcoming semesters, but like some other programs, it will have a few changes. Academic affairs are sure that this change will help VSU become more available to our current resources.

"As part of our regular efforts to reduce administrative costs, we will consolidate the

administrative structures of the Honors College and the Office of International Programs," said Dr. Robert T. Smith, provost and vice president for academic affairs.

"We still expect to provide all of the same outstanding services in both the Honors College and in International Programs, but with greater efficiency. The resulting cost reduction will allow us to continue to focus our resources on providing the excellent education for which VSU is known."

## VSU French Major interns in the French Parliament

**Jenna Arnold**  
Staff Writer  
jarnold@valdosta.edu

Étudiante en français de VSU stagiaire à l'Assemblée nationale à Paris.

Translation: VSU French major - intern at the French Parliament in Paris.

Mathilde Anik Vedel, a senior French major, transferred to VSU in spring 2021 as an online student.

Anik Vedel is not an international student at VSU but is an American and French citizen. She was born in the South of France and has most recently resided in Los Angeles.

After this internship, she says she plans to stay and live in Paris. She found VSU through its online program when she was looking to take French classes and was given the opportunity for this internship through her connections with Dr. Orléa Nikolova, a VSU French professor, and Eva Allouche, the founder of the French American Fund.

"We are happy to partner with VSU and The French American Fund is working toward provid-

ing students like Mathilde with a unique professional experience." Allouche said. "Interning with the French Parliament is a wonderful opportunity for a young American."

The process of getting this internship is incredibly rigorous and took almost a year to complete. She was interviewed multiple times through Zoom, wrote essays and sent multiple documents and a resume. Anik Vedel was one of many students who competed and one of the few undergraduate students who was admitted.

Anik Vedel said that her biggest challenge from this internship was the start.

"It is different than the U.S., and I had to adapt to the European government and adjust to a new place," Anik Vedel said. "It is not like what we are used to."

"One of the biggest changes was the way of transportation."

"Before arriving in Paris, I never took public transportation, and that was actually something that I had to learn because it is just the subway here," Anik Vedel said.

Anik Vedel was also confronted with disproving common stereotypes.

"I was expecting the people to be ruder. It actually wasn't bad, they were quite nice," she said.

While interning she was interviewed by people in the French Parliament and given different projects to work on. "We never know what to expect when we are in the Parliament," Anik Vedel said.

She worked for the French Government Defence as they create the financial plan for the next 10 years. She also participated in the raising of the retirement age from 62 to 64.

Dr. Nikolova described this vote as, "the biggest deal for the last 20 years because the French are really protective of their social acquisition."

Increasing the retirement age created a big controversy in France, and people protested. Many workers went on strikes during this time, such as the trash and street cleaners.

"I remember we had a lot of protests in the streets," Anik Vedel said. "The police had to secure the whole building and the streets around it. No one could go in unless you had a badge to go into the Parliament."

These protesters were not violent but instead civil. However, they

did disrupt the usual traffic for transportation.

"It was hard sometimes during the protests because of the lines; sometimes the subway was closed," she said.

Anik Vedel continued to push through the hectic environment. She said the social aspect and meeting new people was her overall favorite part of the internship.

Networking is important during any kind of event. "I got to meet very important people in the government," Anik Vedel said. "We had lunch with them and talked about all types of subjects during the lunch meetings."

She also interned at the International Law Firm. She was with three other interns who were in their last year of law school. She did not specialize in this field, so she received help from those around her. She had to translate French law into English from long

documents. According to Anik Vedel, it is incredibly difficult because the Parliament has its own vocabulary.

Along with these responsibilities, she was also juggling her online course. She had to write reflection papers every week discussing her time in the Parliament, and she also had to write a final paper.

Not only this, she presented a paper regarding her internship in Paris at the VSU Undergraduate Research Symposium on April 12.

Anik Vedel's internship ended on April 19, but she plans to continue her work in Paris.

"I want to do my master's in international relations online so I can stay in Paris. Then maybe work for the French Parliament or the American Embassy in Paris," Anik Vedel said.



Photo courtesy of Dr. Nikolova  
From left to right: Eva Allouche and Mathilde Anik Vedel

# Best Campus Community Service: News 2nd Place

## Six Mile Post Georgia Highlands College



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Rome, GA

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## SGA election outcome declared

By Anna Crusselle

Jalen Hudson, a Bachelor of Business Administration in Logistics and Supply Chain Management major and current president of Brother 2 Brother, has become the new president of the Student Government Association. Sharlotte Baine, the runner-up, will assume the position of vice president. Their terms will start on July 1.

Sharlotte Baine is pursuing an associate degree in psychology and plans to return in the fall to obtain a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

The need to be more involved on campus led Baine to pursue a role in the SGA. She works on the Paulding campus as a library assistant and orientation leader, and is the vice president of Women to Women.

"I started to wonder what



ANNA CRUSSELLE | PHOTOGRAPHER

Jalen Hudson, (left), newly elected SGA president, wants students to be aware of services GHC provides and the function of the SGA and how students can be involved. Paulding campus psychology major, Sharlotte Baine, (right), will begin her term as the new SGA vice president before the fall semester. She wants to get the student body more involved in the processes of the SGA.

SGA was about," Baine said. She wants to expand her social skills by working with people through SGA.

Baine is enthusiastic about encouraging greater student involvement in the organization. One of her visions is to designate times to speak to different classes about her experiences and get feedback from students.

"I want to see students being more active, which is something we've been discussing with each other to figure out how we can get more involvement in our

events," Baine said.

She has proposed hosting a one-day event dedicated to promoting the SGA and its initiatives. The hope is that it will help more students become familiar with the organization and encourage them to participate in its activities.

One plan is to hang posters around campuses and reach out to students directly. Hudson said the goal is to empower more students to take on SGA roles.

"I think there is a lot of intimidation about roles

that comes with the thought of being a part of SGA. We want to let students know that once they get the role, there isn't an immediate need for them to know everything and we are there to support them," Hudson said.

Hudson wants students to know that he is accessible and always open to communication. He also plans to increase awareness about the resources students have access to.

"Among the student body, I do hear many positive

things about Highlands," Hudson said. "When I do talk to other students, I remind them of things that GHC offers, even therapy."

SGA has recently been focusing on making changes to the current constitution and amendments. There are also plans to add a chancellor, treasurer and campus representatives.

"Clifton (Puckett) is sending out an email to all students to see if there is anyone that would like to fulfill the position of an SGA representative for each campus," Baine said.

Elizabeth Dose, associate professor of psychology, has gotten to know Hudson and Baine through teaching psychology and overseeing the Psychology Club.

Dose said Baine is confident in sharing her own experiences. "She is a strong advocate for mental health, as is Jalen," Dose said.

"Jalen brought research interests and ideas. He would generate really interesting and deep conversations about race and mental health, etc.," Dose said.

Dose encourages Hudson and Baine with the advice to create visibility going forward.

"When you put one foot out, it leads you to so many opportunities you might not have thought of," Dose said.

# Best Campus Community Service: News 1st Place

## The Red & Black University of Georgia

Under the law, and with few exceptions, lawful weapons carriers may carry concealed handguns in public university classes if they are conducted in buildings and facilities not otherwise exempt from the law

## 'Armed and dangerous'

University community reckons with campus carry after UNC shooting

Lucinda Warrick

The message came just after 1 p.m. It was Monday afternoon — an otherwise bright start to a new week at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill — and campus life hurried on as usual. That all changed when a text was sent out to the campus community warning that an “armed and dangerous” person was on or near campus. Just after the text, warning sirens blared. Students rushed to take cover, shouting themselves into dark closets and green community nurseries scrambled to alert others and call 911 and faculty that they loved them. Little information was available, and fewer filled the empty space that knowledge couldn't. Police soon surrounded Class Lab, where the active shooter reportedly was. It was more than three hours of chaos until the “all-clear” came. Police arrested a graduate student in the department of applied physical sciences, for shooting and killing Ziya You, an associate professor in the same department. The next day in Athens, Janet Fitch — an associate professor of psychology at the University of Georgia — opened X, formerly known as Twitter. She had friends in UNC's faculty who experienced the shooting first-hand and watched as academic demands grew as college campuses nation. Now, she wanted to contribute.

SEE CAMPUS PAGE A3



**A2 AFFIRMATIVE ACTION ENDS**  
Athens students react to Supreme Court ruling

**A6 COAST TO COAST**  
Harrah White's journey from USC to Georgia soccer's leading scorer

**B3 HERITAGE IN HARMONY**  
Celebrating local Latin musicians during Hispanic Heritage Month

**B4 LABOR OF LOVE**  
Local restaurant, Vista Argentina, closes after more than a decade

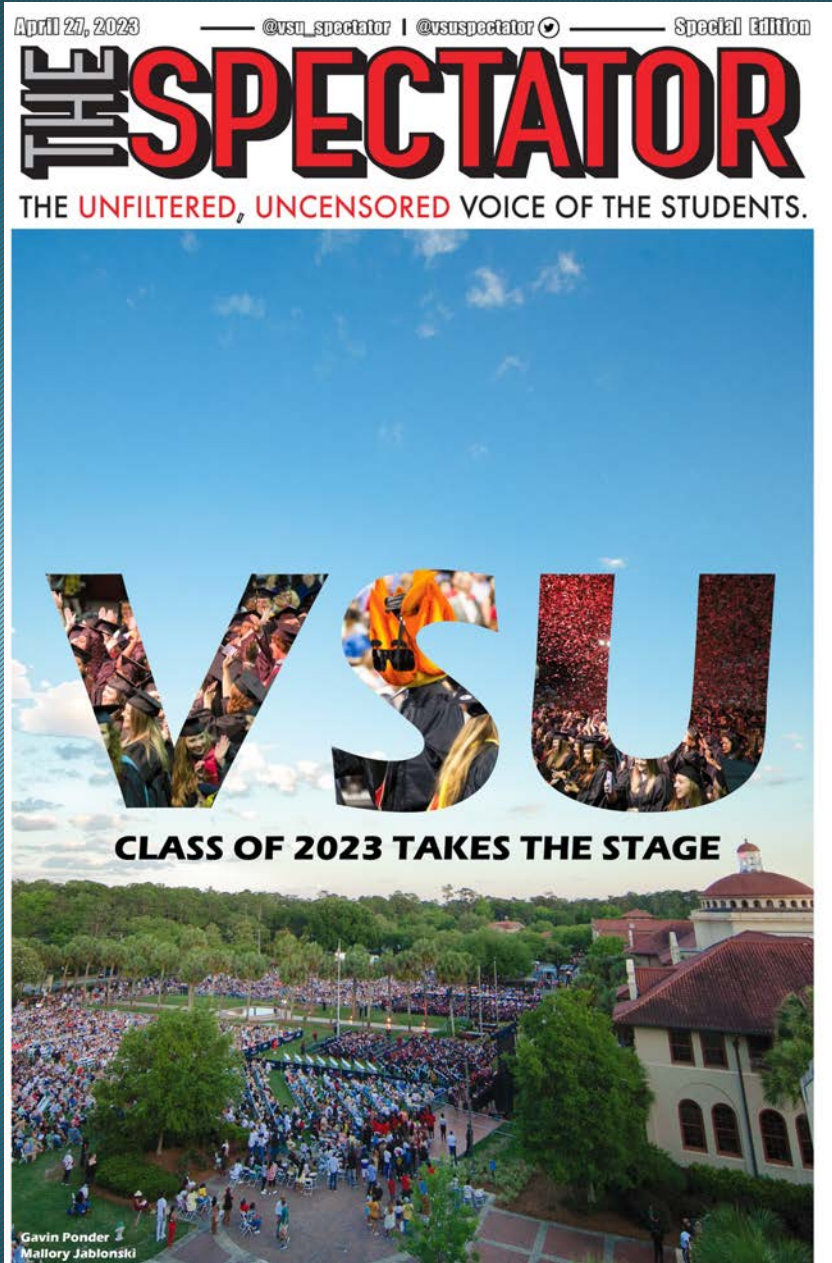
PHOTO: JEFFREY HARRIS

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Vol. 115, Issue 1

## Training adapts to record heat and humidity

**Athletic teams beat the weather with new training schedules and regulations**

Read more on page 15



Katelynn Singleton | CAMPUS CARRIER

NEWS 3

OPINIONS 7

FEATURES 8

ARTS & LIVING 12

SPORTS 14

PHOTOS 16



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## Road to redress

Linnentown's fight for recognition



North Thomas Whitehead, a descendant of Linnentown, stands in front of the newly renamed Linnentown Lane road sign in Athens, Georgia, on Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2023. The sign was unveiled on Thursday, Sept. 21, 2023, and stands as a monument to the years that Thomas Whitehead, along with other advocates and descendants of Linnentown, fought for justice for the community. PHOTO: FELIX BERTIER

**A2 PEDESTRIAN SAFETY**  
Assessing improvements two years after Ariana Zarnie's death

**A6 HOME AWAY FROM HOME**  
The Georgia volleyball team's brief stay in Ramsey

**B3 DAY IN THE LIFE**  
Follow the members of the Georgia Spike Squad on gameday

**B5 FLAVORS OF FALL**  
A roundup of local menu items that celebrate spooky season



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