

Georgia College Press Association

2025 Better Newspaper Contest

Feb. 28, 2025

Best Column

3rd Place

Caylin Anderson

The Roar

Piedmont University

Bridge Books: A Better Deal for Students?

[Caylin Anderson](#), News Editor

September 9, 2024

Imagine you're a poor college student dreading yet hesitantly embracing the upcoming fall semester. You open your laptop, load up self-service, and take on your worst nightmare: tuition fees. Suddenly, you're faced with a hefty \$330 fee on your account.

If you're anything like me, you immediately entered the Piedmont app to inquire about this fee, only to discover that Piedmont University is pushing out a brand new program designed to help students with textbook pricing.

On June 24, 2024, Piedmont University infiltrated students' emails with a cute yet somewhat deceiving graphic about a new rental program called Bridge Books+, stating that this program would give students all the course material they would need for a flat rate of \$22 per credit hour. Stating, Verbatim, "This exciting new program is designed to SAVE you TIME and MONEY." Students could opt out of this program from July 15th to Aug 23rd.

Previously, Piedmont students had to buy their textbooks at the prices listed on the Piedmont University bookstore website. Textbooks could range from \$10 to over \$200, depending on the course.

The program, while helpful, has its flaws. As a student taking five classes with two sections, I only have two classes where we use our textbooks. As stated in the email post



- Cuts: What Does President Criser Have to Say? • 223 Views
- 2 From Demorest to Athens, Dr. Joe Dennis leaves an impact • 73 Views
- 3 Are You Speaking Their Love Language? A Guide for College Students • 72 Views
- 4 The Ethics of Sports Betting • 38 Views
- 5 From the Field to the Stage: Jim Peebles Joins Piedmont Theatre in '9 to 5' • 26 Views

Posts from @piedmontroar



Nothing to see here - yet

When they post, their posts will show up here.

[View on X](#)



RECENT STORIES

Best Column

2nd Place

Savannah Ivie and Ava Trankina


The Roar

Piedmont University

ROAR NEWS ▾ ROAR VIDEO ▾ ROAR AUDIO ▾ STAFF ▾ OUR MEDIA ▾ PIEDMONT MASS COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT ▾ MORE ▾

The Buzz on Energy Drinks: Your Heart's Worst Nightmare

[Savannah Ivie](#) and [Ava Trankina](#)
October 9, 2024



REIGN energy drinks located in the marketplace.

Savannah Ivie

Order Have to Sayr • 223 Views

- 2 From Demorest to Athens. Dr. Joe Dennis leaves an impact • 73 Views
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RECENT STORIES

<https://piedmontroar.com/12230/news/the-buzz-on-energy-drinks-your-hearts-worst-nightmare/#photo>

Best Column

1st Place

Michelle Cates

The Roar

Piedmont University

Primetime News Coverage is Not Enough

[Michelle Cates](#), Staff Writer

October 7, 2024



[Michelle Cates](#)

Classrooms that used to be considered some of the safest places for a child have become places of potential danger.

There's a phenomenon that tragically happens every few months in the United States. A disaster that blows through communities and leaves them broken.

When I was in middle school, a kid brought a gun to school. Up until that point, I'd never realistically considered that it was a possibility to die at school. Dying was something that happened to old people who lived long rich lives, not for pimply middle schoolers who'd never been asked to a dance before. School shootings were things that only happened on the

Cuts: What Does President Crisler Have to Say? • 223 Views

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Posts from @piedmontroar



Nothing to see here - yet

When they post, their posts will show up here.

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RECENT STORIES



Yves Unleashed: A Deep Dive into Her Latest Album "I Did."

[Caylin Anderson](#), News Editor

November 22, 2024



[PAIX PER MIL](#)

A promotional image of Yves for her second EP, "I Did."

Human beings have the ability to express themselves in a way that makes them happy. Some individuals may find themselves indulging in photography, painting, cinema, or perhaps music. When people are guaranteed the ability to indulge in artistic freedom, they are given the ability to imagine, create and connect. One artist who has taken advantage of her creative freedom is Yves, a female Korean soloist who manifests her feelings in a hyperpop, R&B-inspired medium.

Best

Review

3rd Place
Group I

Caylin
Anderson

The Roar
Piedmont
University

Worth the Watch? I'd Say So

Jesse Smedley, Staff Writer

February 6, 2024

Sony's attempt at another successful romantic comedy, *Anyone But You*, hit our movie theater screens on Dec. 22, 2023. This classic take on an enemies-to-lovers trope used predictable romance and perfect-timed slapstick comedy to embody the entertainingly balanced "rom-com" movie genre we all know and love.

The success of the movie is not only due to director Will Gluck's impeccable creative vision but also the marketing team's proactiveness and the actors' natural chemistry to create something new. A fresh setting gave this movie an immediate upper hand in comparison to others in this genre. In "rom-com" movies, viewers are used to seeing popular American cities such as New York or Los Angeles; having a setting in Australia offers something new for viewers.

In addition, actors Sydney Sweeney and Glen Powell created what seemed to be genuine chemistry between the two. This believable performance in this will-they-wont-they film plays with emotions in the best way, leaving us continuously wanting more of the pair.

Of course, this film wouldn't have been successful without a strategic marketing team. Utilizing TikTok, the marketing team of *Anyone But You* created and ushered a trend that users picked up and participated in, ultimately doing additional marketing for them.



With the Perfect Amount of Cringe and Predictability, *Anyone But You* is an Enjoyably Easy-Watch for Viewers

Best
Review
2nd Place
Group I

Jesse
Smedley
The Roar
Piedmont
University

The Mercer Cluster

Sunday, Dec 8, 2024

Interested in Working for the Cluster? Ask about joining our Slack!

ARTS & CULTURE

REVIEW: Tyler, the Creator's CHROMAKOPIA, analyzed



Photo courtesy of [Columbia Records](#).

By [Jacob Hossler](#)

November 6, 2024 | 12:00am EST

Best
Review
1st Place
Group I

Jacob
Hossler
*The
Cluster*
Mercer
University

Best
Review
3rd Place
Group II

Sam Askew
Campus Carrier
Berry College

Everyone should embrace Coldplay's music

SAM ASKEW
managing editor

With so many music options in this excitingly artistic period of our meandering existence, one may find themselves lost amongst the noise. Yet, there are a few artists that stand on top of the piles and piles of music. No, I'm not talking about Taylor Swift, Harry Styles or even Hozier. I am, of course, talking about Coldplay.

I know, I know. Who would want to listen to four angry British men write songs about love? Yes, I know how that sounds. However, I'd like to drop some knowledge on you that will be as beneficial to you as it has been to me. That is, anyone who dislikes Coldplay or makes fun of you for liking Coldplay has never listened to Coldplay.

A controversial statement, but I think you'll come to find it's true in your everyday experience. Why do I have such strong feelings about Coldplay? Well, it's because Coldplay has something for everyone in their discography. Join

me as I take you on the genre journey through the music of Coldplay.

Firstly, if you are looking for classic alternative rock, Coldplay's first two albums are where to go. "Parachutes" and "A Rush of Blood to the Head," released in 2000 and 2002 respectively, are among Coldplay's most alternative sounding albums. Heavily based around the guitar with subtle influences of piano, their first and sophomore albums take the listener on an adventure through love, break-ups, and heartaches.

Now, if you're looking for more pop-rock or stadium anthems, "Mylo Xyloto," "A Head Full of Dreams" and "Music of the Spheres" are where you need to head next. Loud and rambunctious, these albums gave Coldplay record-breaking world tours.

In terms of lyrical content, "Viva la Vida or Death and all His Friends" and "Everyday Life"

are where Coldplay is at its best. Filled with metaphors and commentary on pressing social issues, the strings and piano tell stories behind the words that are just as meaningful as the words themselves.

That leaves two albums: "X&Y" and "Ghost Stories." It should be said that "X&Y," while initially released to mixed critical reception, has earned its place as a staple Coldplay album. What these two albums have in common are their synths and strings. However, they are very different in content, "Ghost Stories" being one of the saddest of Coldplay's albums.

So, whatever you're looking for, Coldplay has it. And I know I said it before, but I will say it again: Anyone who dislikes Coldplay has never listened to Coldplay. With rumors of a new album in 2024, Coldplay is not going anywhere for a while, so you might as well embrace them.

Best Review

2nd Place
Group II

Cole Murphy

The Technique

Georgia Institute of Technology

“Monkey Man” is an exciting, if overstuffed, revenge thriller

Cole Murphy on April 5, 2024 in Entertainment



“Dev Patel plays Kid in “Monkey Man,” an action thriller where Kid avenges the death of his mother.” // Photo courtesy of IMDb

“You like ‘John Wick?’” an arms dealer asks. He walks to the wall, pulls down a handgun and smiles. “This is the same gun from the movie, but made in China.”

“Monkey Man” is no “John Wick” knockoff, though. Dev Patel, the director, writer and star of the film, has a passion that permeates the whole movie, turning “Monkey Man” into a memorable revenge flick that shows Patel’s love of action cinema without feeling too derivative of other movies. “Monkey Man” has its inspirations — you can point to nearly every scene and find another movie that did it first — but Patel the actor is so compelling as the lead that it carves out its own space in the genre. It is Patel, the director and the writer, who overstuffs “Monkey Man” and keeps it from greatness. Maybe he should have borrowed a little more from “John Wick.”

“Monkey Man” follows Kid, a quiet fighter in an underground fight club somewhere in the slums of India. He spends most of his time losing. Quickly though, the audience sees snippets of the death of Kid’s mother, and it becomes clear that he is hellbent on avenging her killing. But what happens when Kid goes on a rampage? He loses again. He’s no action hero. Not yet, at least. He then goes on a journey of self-discovery, finding for himself what he is truly fighting for.

Best Review

1st Place
Group II

Aileene
-Bjork
Goodman

The
Stallion
Abraham Baldwin
Agricultural
College

14

August 8, 2024

ENTERTAINMENT

“Fallen Aces” Brings New Life to Genre

AILEENE-BJORK GOODMAN 
Newsletter Editor

In a year full of lackluster games, “Fallen Aces” is New Blood Interactive’s newest title that we didn’t know we wanted. Despite it being in early access, its first episode of five levels offers a wonderful experience on its own. You won’t resist immersing yourself in this first-person noir dripping with comic book flair.

Enter Switchblade City, a place crawling with so much crime that a group of costumed vigilantes called A.C.E.S. formed to stop it. Now, the team has gone rogue, and a politician trying to heal the city is assassinated.

You play as Mike Thane, a private investigator who investigates a kidnapping, only to be targeted and roped into a case with a maniacal villain named Glassjaw. If this city doesn’t want to rot from the inside out, it’s going to need Mike.

Ironically, Switchblade City is a beautiful cesspool to wallow through thanks to the hand-drawn visuals in its partially blocky 3D landscape and 2D sprites of props and people. “Fallen Aces” complements its looks by nailing the noir aesthetic: jazz takes no breaks, fedoras resemble danger instead of style, cigarettes are gasping for open flames, and men’s vocabulary has turned derogatory.

Even better is how “Fallen Aces” creates a Swiss-army knife out of Switchblade City by making it extremely flexible through every chapter. This flexibility doesn’t just go for objectives but practically everything. With this level of freedom, if you can think of something, chances are you can do it.

Anything not bolted down is a weapon, and you can carry up to three items. You can swing objects, throw them, and use them to block. Don’t underestimate your fists, either. Mike was previously a boxer, so he definitely has experience throwing punches.



Mike Thane brawling thugs in a dockyard in “Fallen Aces.” Screenshot by Aileene-Bjork Goodman.

“Fallen Aces” also has guns like a true noir, but they take a backseat since they are better in dire straits. Sure, it’s easier to plug a wiseguy with your Saturday Night Special revolver than to stun him with a pipe, but wouldn’t that make you a murderer?

Killing everyone isn’t necessary. Whether you play violently or nonlethally is based on your choice of weapons. Beat someone up or bonk them with something blunt, and they’ll fall unconscious. Use something like a fire-axe, and they’ll fall into different pieces. There are no consequences between either playstyle, but trying to remain a pacifist is challenging since unconscious enemies can be revived by fellow enemies.

You might not even have to fight, period. If you lay low and explore, you could find alternative routes or other helpful feats.

For example, chapter three sends Mike to a junkyard to find a contact, only to find scoundrels that want his contact dead. Fortunately for you, the contact rigged traps everywhere. You could watch thugs

carelessly trigger their trip mines, subdue them beforehand, dismantle and relocate the traps, or ignite lackeys standing in gasoline puddles. You may also notice the junkyard’s car crusher is still operational. It would be a shame if someone happened to leave a bunch of unconscious thugs inside and “accidentally” turn it on, wouldn’t it?

If chapter three was subtly nudging you to kill everyone, chapter four does the opposite. Mike investigates a crime scene at a mansion only to discover that crooks arrived first. You’re given a tranquilizer gun with limited darts, but your only requirement is to record the crime scene. Multiple different entrances help you get in unannounced. Of course, there’s the front door, but there is also a bathroom vent, the poolside entrance, or the windows.

“Fallen Aces” is also full of smaller details that promote experimentation and make you further appreciate the developers’ effort. You can eat a banana to regain health, but if you drop the peel, someone can slip and fall. Trashcan lids are

weapons but shields against bullets, too. A parody of the “Jaws” theme plays when a shark chases you underwater. Hit an enemy in the crotch, and they clutch their groin in agony. You can even stop a barbershop mugging if you’re fast enough.

Tying everything together is the narrative shrouded in dark mystique. The cutscenes are like strips out of a comic book, and you’ll be so immersed while playing that you feel as if you’re on the page. Everybody is interesting and voiced to perfection, especially Mike and former A.C.E.S. member Nightwave.

“Fallen Aces” tremendously delivers on every note, which says a lot given its current short length. Regardless, the first episode sets high expectations and makes players crave more from future episodes. If the game continues in this direction, it will become a title so grand that you’ll never, as the mafiosos say, “fuhgeddaboutit.”



Editorial/Feature
3rd Place

Klementzos
Campus Carrier
Berry College



Editorial/Feature
2nd Place

Felix
Scheyer
The Red & Black



Editorial/
Feature

1st Place

Samantha
Hurley

The Red & Black
University of Georgia



Berry College track hosts Victor Icebreaker Duals



Nico Klementzos | CAMPUS CARRIER

**Track and field events
open season for men and
women's track team**
Read more on page 7

**Best
Photograph
: Sports**
3rd Place

**Nico
Klementzos**

Campus

Carrier

Berry College



**Best
Photograph:
Sports**
2nd Place

Kobe Ross
The Stallion
Abraham Baldwin
Agricultural College

Best
Photograph:
Sports
1st Place

Laney Martin

The Red & Black
University of Georgia



Best Photograph:
News
3rd Place
Group I

Bear Luke
Campus Carrier
Berry College



Best Photograph: Michelle Cates

News

The Roar

2nd Place

Piedmont University

Group I



Senior's capstone project highlights LGBTQ icons



MJ Shaffer brings awareness to struggles of LGBTQ artists
Read more on page 8

Bear Luke | CAMPUS CARRIER

**Best
Photograph
: News**

1st Place
Group I

Bear Luke

*Campus
Carrier*

Berry College

Best Photograph: News

3rd Place
Group II

Tyler Parker

The Technique
Georgia Institute of
Technology



Best Photograph: Henry Keating

News

The Cluster

2nd Place

Mercer University

Group II



Best

Photograph:
News

1st Place
Group II

Samantha
Hurley

The Red & Black
University of Georgia



Best Photo

Essay

3rd Place

Group I

Charlie Pakluk

Campus Carrier

Berry College

Mountain Day Festivities



Charlie Pakluk | **CAMPUS CARRIER**

Best Photo

Essay

2nd Place

Group I

Angelica Lux

The Roar

Piedmont University



Best Photo

Essay

1st Place

Group I

Michelle Cates

The Roar

Piedmont University

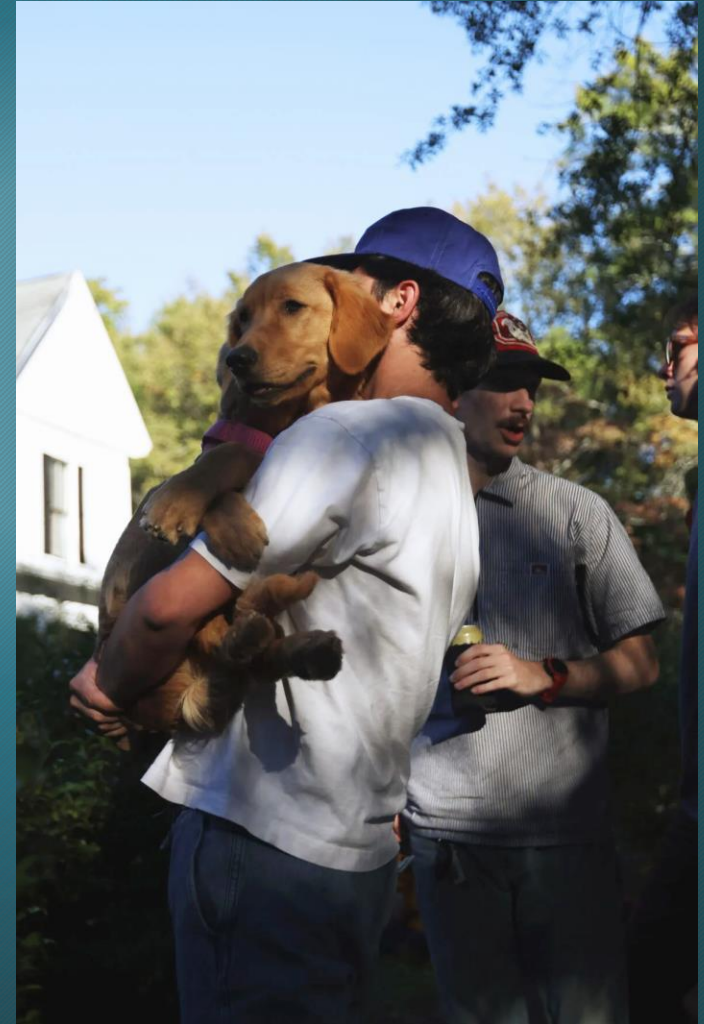


Best Photo Essay

3rd Place
Group II

Ashtin Barker

The Red & Black
University of Georgia



Best
Photo
Essay

2nd Place
Group II

Felix
Scheyer

*The Red &
Black*
University of
Georgia



Best Photo

Essay

1st Place
Group II

Hosanna Worku
and Forest
Dynes

The Red & Black
University



On par for mental health: Donovan attributes golf success to her mentality on and off the course

[Damyon Traylor](#)

December 6, 2024

Seven individual tournament championships, two-time USA South champion, NCAA Tournament qualifier ... Erin Donovan is undoubtedly one of the best women's golfers in the nation. Being at the top of your game comes at a price — the pressure and expectations associated with being the best. When on the course, Donovan tries to block out the noise, but sometimes “the voices” still break through the deafening silence.

“I’m very self-critical of myself,” said Donovan, who just capped off her junior year fall season by winning the Chick-fil-A Invitational, besting 81 other women for the crown. “I struggled with mental health off the golf course, which impacted me negatively on the golf course.”

Donovan grew up in a golf family, with both her father and grandfather playing competitively. So it seemed like a natural fit for her to join in her family’s legacy, but when she first picked up a golf club at the age of 10, she wasn’t impressed. “I hated every experience on the golf course,” she said. “I did not want to be there.”



[Karl Moore](#)

Junior golfer Erin Donovan gets on the green at the Alamo City Classic. Donovan says taking care of her mental health has helped her golf game.

- Views
- 2 From Demorest to Athens, Dr. Joe Dennis leaves an impact • 76 Views
 - 3 Are You Speaking Their Love Language? A Guide for College Students • 72 Views
 - 4 The Ethics of Sports Betting • 42 Views
 - 5 From the Field to the Stage: Jim Peebles Joins Piedmont Theatre in '9 to 5' • 27 Views

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"Student-Athlete" = Johnny Matrona

[Colin Hackshaw](#)

October 18, 2024

Save after save, A+ after A+, 2024 Piedmont alumnus Johnny Matrona is the definition of student-athlete, having what it takes to excel on the field and in the classroom.

"During the season, it did become a little more difficult," said Matrona, who was named USA South Defensive Player of the Year for his play in goal last spring for the conference runner-up lacrosse team. "Some days, I had to leave practice early or show up a little late, depending on the class. But overall for me, it was fairly easy to manage I was able to manage my classwork."



[Karl Moore](#)

Goalie Johnny Matrona racks up another save. The 2024 graduate was a stellar athlete and student.

Juggling classes and extracurriculars is a common yet difficult task for many college students. Obligations often overlap, forcing the student to choose between responsibilities. Students must figure out which obligations are the most important to be successful.

"I always tried my best to make sure I didn't have to choose one over the other," Matrona says. "For example, my sophomore year, we had to travel for playoffs, but the bus was set to leave during one of my final periods. Knowing this, me and some of my teammates were able to communicate with our professor and take the final early so we could make the bus."

Lacrosse is especially tough as a spring sport because the playoffs always occur around finals. It is easy to get wrapped up in the team's biggest games of the year and ignore the most important part of the academic year. But Matrona, who graduated with a degree in accounting and finance, ensured his academics always came first.

One of the benefits of being at a small school and on a small roster is being known as a

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RECENT STORIES



Best Sports
Story
1st Place
Group I
Gabriel
Kopp
The Cluster
Mercer University

The Mercer Cluster

Sunday, Dec 8, 2024

Interested in Working for the Cluster? Ask about joining our Slack!

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.

A four-star prospect in 2018 out of Mars, Pennsylvania, [247 Sports](#) considered Carmody the 17th-ranked shooting guard in the nation and he committed to perennial NCAA powerhouse Notre Dame.

At Mars Area High School, Carmody played for his father, who, according to Carmody, has coached at the school since before Carmody was born, allowing him to grow up around the program before leading it to two state championship games.

On a snow day in his senior year that allowed him to sleep in before school started, Carmody woke up to the news that he was named Pennsylvania's Gatorade Player of the Year.

The award is given to the best all-around player in each state in a variety of sports, from basketball to cross country. The selection process takes into consideration a player's success in their sport as well as their work outside of the arena.

Carmody, who was a member of the National Honor Society in high school, volunteered at youth basketball camps and a nursing home. On the court, he was a leader of his team and, according to Mercer Athletics, finished with 2,390 points and 1,216 rebounds in his high school career.

Story

3rd Place
Group II

Olivia Sayer

The Red & Black
University of Georgia



News

Sports

Culture & Dining

Opinion

Multimedia

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About

Donate



'Feels like coming home': Athens Twilight Criterium champions celebrate win in Classic City

Olivia Sayer Apr 29, 2024 Updated Nov 7, 2024 3 min to read

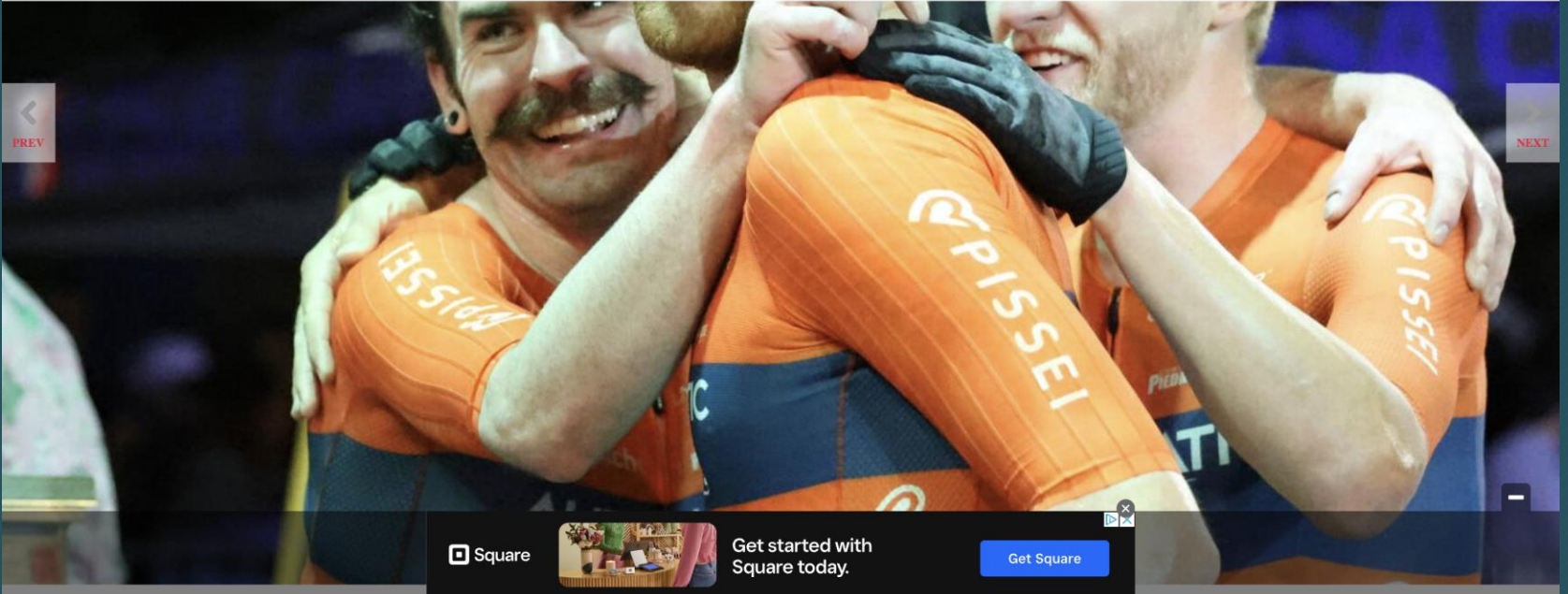


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Story

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Group II

Bo Underwood

The Red & Black
University of Georgia

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The Red & Black

The independent, student-led, nonprofit news organization serving Athens and UGA



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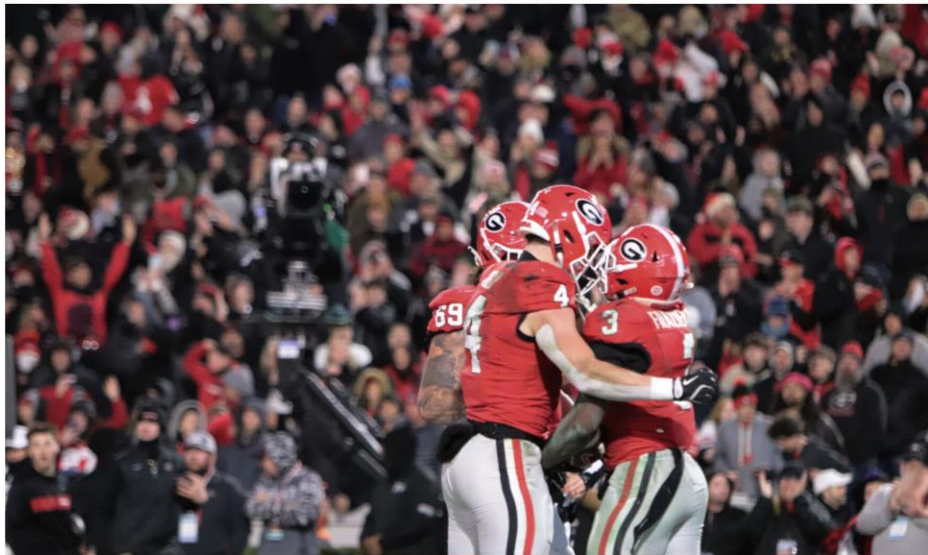
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FEATURED TOP STORY

Georgia roars back in wild overtime win over Georgia Tech

Bo Underwood Nov 30, 2024 Updated Dec 1, 2024

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PREV

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NEXT



Scenes during the NCAA college football game bet

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☀️ 44°

Rams general manager Les Snead revisits drafting Stetson Bennett

Olivia K Sayer Sep 12, 2024 Updated Oct 24, 2024 4 min to read



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07:04



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PREV

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NEXT

Best Entertainment Feature 3rd Place

Lainey Pettit

The Roar

Piedmont University

GAMES

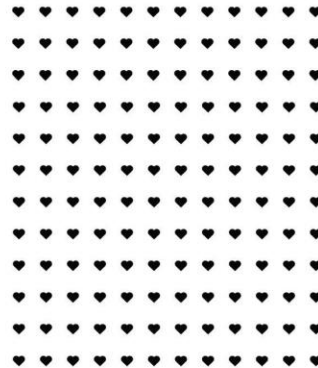
Valentine's Games

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

Piedmont Sudoku

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.

hearts + boxes

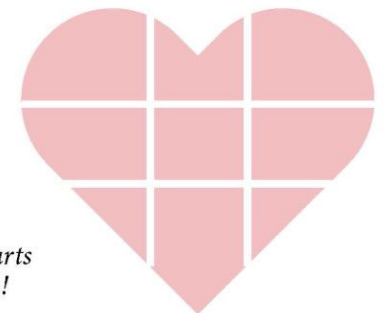
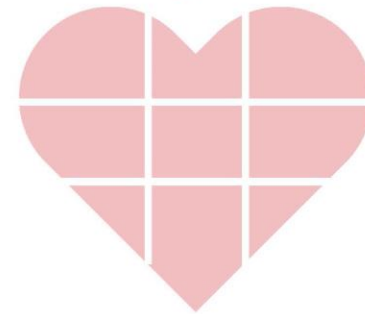


Hearts and Boxes

Two players take turns adding a single horizontal or vertical line between two unjoined adjacent dots. A player who completes the fourth side of a 1x1 box earns one point and takes another turn. A point is typically recorded by placing a mark that identifies the player in the box, such as an initial.

By Lainey Pettit, Game Designer

Couple's Tic-Tac-Toe



Find more hearts on other pages!

Best
Entertainment
Feature

2nd Place

Gabriella
Hernandez

The Stallion

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural
College



Sandworm from "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice." ART | GABRIELLA HERNANDEZ

Best
Entertainment
Feature
1st Place

Gabriella
Hernandez

The Stallion

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural
College



Best Entertainment Story 3rd Place

Chloe Spradlin

The Roar

Piedmont University

ROAR NEWS

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MORE

The microphone is his paintbrush: Jarrett Ray uses show to showcase creativity with 'Real Talk'

[Chloe Spradlin](#)

March 13, 2024



Senior Jarrett Ray is a double major in mass communications and film production. Ray chose mass communications in pursuit of becoming a radio show host. Currently, Ray is the host of the podcast Real Talk Radio. (Alexis Baumgardner)

With the 21st century's innovation of streaming video and sound at the click of a button, art has found its way to express itself in plenty of new ways. Piedmont junior Jarrett Ray has taken advantage of it, in the form of podcasting.

Ray is a junior at Piedmont, but started his undergraduate at Dalton State University. He took two gap years after his freshman year and later applied for Piedmont. He then started his podcast "Real Talk Radio" in November of 2021.

Crises Have to Say? • 229 Views

2 From Demorest to Athens, Dr. Joe Dennis leaves an impact • 76 Views



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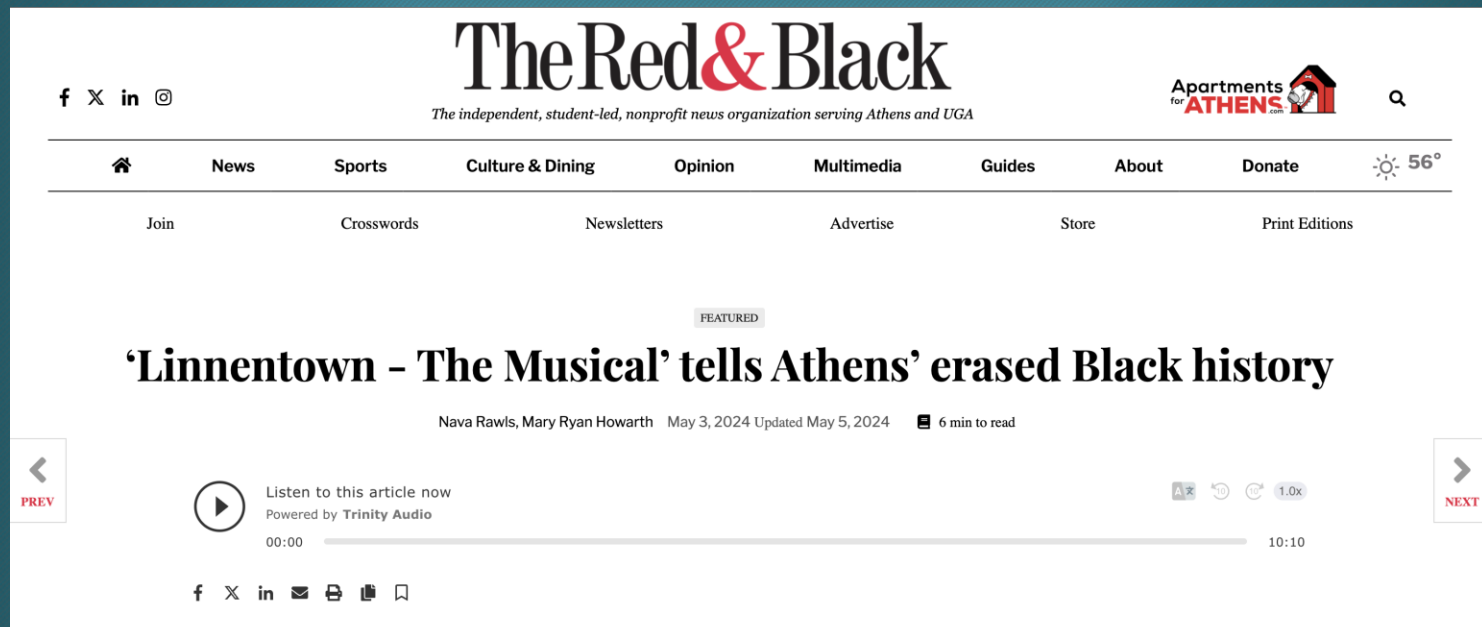


Best Entertainment Story

Nava Rawls and Mary Ryan Howarth

2nd Place

The Red & Black
University of Georgia



The screenshot shows the website for 'The Red & Black', an independent student-led nonprofit news organization at the University of Georgia. The page features a navigation menu with categories like News, Sports, Culture & Dining, Opinion, Multimedia, Guides, About, and Donate. A featured article is highlighted with the title 'Linnentown - The Musical' tells Athens' erased Black history'. The article is by Nava Rawls and Mary Ryan Howarth, dated May 3, 2024, and updated on May 5, 2024. It is 6 minutes long. Below the article title is an audio player with a play button, a progress bar at 00:00, and volume controls. The player is powered by Trinity Audio. Social media sharing icons for Facebook, X, LinkedIn, Email, Print, and Bookmark are visible below the player. The page also includes a search bar, a weather widget showing 56 degrees, and a 'Print Editions' link.



Best Entertainment Story 1st Place

Navya Shukla

The Red & Black
University of Georgia

The screenshot shows a news article page from 'The Red & Black'. At the top, there is a Canva advertisement. Below it is the site's logo and navigation menu. The main article title is 'Tomorrow Tattoo: Where art meets identity in Five Points' by Navya Shukla, dated Feb 13, 2024, with an update on Feb 21, 2024. The article is 4 minutes long. Below the title is an audio player for the article, powered by Trinity Audio, with a play button and a progress bar. At the bottom, there are social media sharing icons and a video player showing a close-up of a tattoo.

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FEATURED TOP STORY

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Navya Shukla Feb 13, 2024 Updated Feb 21, 2024 4 min to read

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Best Feature Story

3rd Place

Abigail Dunagan and Cammie Wilks

Campus Carrier

Remembering the life and legacy of Evelyn Hamilton

Abigail Dunagan
features Editor
Cammie Wilks
asst. features editor

This past week, Berry College mourned the loss of Evelyn Louise Hamilton, 78, who was one of the first African-American students to graduate from the institution. Berry College was a segregated school during its first 50 years, remaining dedicated to Martha Berry's original mission of educating the students from Georgia's rural areas. Although the school's original charter did not mention race, the college chose to remain segregated for many years. There were no African-American students attending Berry at the time, and few applied due to the assumption that they would be denied. Those who did apply were denied admission under the claim of "full rooms."

In 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court outlawed the segregation of schools in the ruling of *Brown vs. Board of Education*. At the time when Berry's president John R. Bertrand was serving the college, issues of segregation were at the forefront of academia in the south. Although there was much discussion

and debate amongst the students and faculty of the school, on Sept. 23, 1964, Bertrand announced that Berry College would no longer be segregated.

Hamilton graduated from Main High School in 1964 with plans to attend collage. She was approached by the principal at her school who informed her and several other students that Berry College was planning on integrating, and the students were asked if they would be interested in attending the college. After becoming one of the first African-American students to enroll at Berry, Hamilton graduated in 1969 with a Bachelors of Science in Home Economics.

Director of Foundation Relations and Strategic Partnerships Stacey Spillers has been at Berry for over 20 years, and she met Hamilton during the beginning of her time at here. According to Spillers, Hamilton was instrumental in the reigniting of the African-American Alumni chapter, and she also worked to establish the Hamilton-Smith scholarship. This is an endowed scholarship that was founded by Hamilton alongside Beverly Smith, who graduated at the same time as Hamilton with a Bachelors in English. Spillers had the opportunity to take Hamilton and Smith out to lunch a few times a year, and she got learn more about their experiences as students at Berry.

"Evelyn was a very humble person, but very much a servant leader that you respected," Spillers said. "From her time at Berry, even though she would let



Hannah McLeod | Campus Carrier

you know there were some times where she wasn't content, she always had a positive outlook and talked about what she gained from the experience."

After graduating from Berry, Hamilton worked as a caseworker in the department of family and children services for 34 years. She was an active participant in community service throughout her life, such as securing a grant to renovate her old high school, volunteering at a local clinic and working with various other organizations to help others.

"She was a quiet leader, but more for the sake that

she didn't want any attention on herself," Spillers said. "She was the most humble person I probably know. She wanted to get things done. There were many things that were very important to her servant life here on campus. She was a person who tried to emulate what Jesus would want you to do."

Chief Belonging and Community Engagement Officer Haley Smith got to meet with Hamilton and Beverly Smith two years ago to discuss the establishment of the Office of Belonging and Community Engagement. According to Smith, Hamilton was eager to support the new office, as this was not something that would have been possible in 1964 when she was a student. Although Hamilton did not work directly with the office, Smith said that they take a lot of inspiration from her life. Hamilton was heavily involved in local community service, and this is something that many in the Berry community admire and cherish.

"In addition to being an inspiration of diversity on this campus and being open-minded and inclusive, I think that her life is ultimately a reflection of the kind of person we aspire for our students to be," Smith said. "In the way we approach community and identity, she is somebody that I aspire to be like. My hope is that we can inspire our students to be something like her."

I think that her life is ultimately a reflection of the kind of person we aspire our students to be

Haley Smith



Cammie Wilks | Campus Carrier



PHOTO COURTESY OF BERRY COLLEGE ARCHIVES
Evelyn Hamilton graduated from Berry in 1969 with a Bachelor's degree in Home Economics.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BERRY COLLEGE ARCHIVES
Hamilton was a active member in the Berry Community. This image shows Hamilton with fellow African American Alumni taking a picture outside of Pine Lodge during Mountain Day 2002.



Mackenzie McGrath | Campus Carrier



PHOTO COURTESY OF BERRY COLLEGE ARCHIVES
Hamilton played a crucial role in reigniting the African-American Alumni chapter. This image shows her with other members in Krannert on Mountain Day of 2002.

The Mercer Cluster

Sunday, Dec 8, 2024

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SPORTS

Behind the mask: Mysterious Mercer mascots



Tot and Toby on the Bear Walk on a football game day in 2023. Photo provided by Seller Rivers '24.

By **Gabriel Kopp**

April 2, 2024 11:00am EDT

As ubiquitous as Mercer's orange light post banners or President Bill Underwood's black labrador, Cricket, are on campus, there are two figures that stand out from the rest.

Best
Feature
Story
2nd Place
Gabriel
Kopp
The Cluster
Mercer University

Best Feature

Story

1st Place

Jesse Wood

The Red & Black



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A mother's love made immortal: The Tyanna Foundation marks 25 years of breast cancer awareness in Athens and beyond

JESSE WOOD Oct 17, 2024 Updated Oct 18, 2024 4 min to read



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Best
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 Berry College

Berry College needs to be more inclusive for LGBTQ+ students

With the recent Princeton Review rankings having come out two weeks ago, many are left questioning how inclusive Berry College truly is for students of diverse backgrounds, especially those within the LGBTQ+ community. The college's placement at number 11 on the "most LGBTQ+ unfriendly colleges" list is alarming and raises serious concerns about the campus' safety for their LGBTQ+ students and the overall atmosphere of acceptance at the school.

It is very apparent that Berry has a strong Christian influence, which often shapes the social atmosphere. The college, being in the deep South, a region infamous for its conservative leanings, only amplifies this dynamic. LGBTQ+ individuals in the South are often not safe from being targets of discrimination, and this reality is not lost on Berry's LGBTQ+ students. Many fear that simply being themselves could make them the subject of hate or prejudice at college, leading them to hide their identities rather than express them freely.

In fact, according to Berry College's own data, 37.5 percent of LGBTQ+ students have reported feeling discriminated against due to their sexual orientation. What is the campus doing now to ensure these students feel safe and included in Berry life, both socially and institutionally?

Campus Pride is a national nonprofit organization that aims to help campuses create a safer environment for their students. On their website they explain that a school that is LGBTQ+ friendly is one that has active student organizations on campus, LGBTQ+ inclusive policies and an established LGBTQ+ center or office on campus — just to name a few. Fortunately, Berry has these three components in place.

The existence of LISTEN, the only recognized LGBTQ+ student organization, is a step in the right direction. This club strives to advocate for LGBTQ+ students and to create

fellowship and allyship within the community. Though they began to meet in 2003, it is surprising that the club was only officially recognized in 2012 after numerous failed attempts to form other LGBTQ+ groups like the Gay and Lesbian Awareness Society and Rainbow Berry. It is disheartening that it took so long for numerous voices to be heard for the

The college's placement at number 11 on the "most LGBTQ+ unfriendly colleges" list is alarming and raises serious concerns about the campus' safety for their LGBTQ+ students and the overall atmosphere at the school

group to be recognized as an official organization on campus. The establishment of LISTEN shows that Berry's values are evolving, slowly but surely.

That brings up another point: Berry's efforts to become LGBTQ+ friendly through its Office of Belonging and

Community Engagement are commendable, but they are not enough. The office's goals are to prioritize Good Neighbor Culture, or in other words, "thoughtfully practice how we value, treat and serve one another." While initiatives to foster inclusivity exist, there is still much work to be done to create an environment where students of all sexual orientations feel fully embraced and protected. One of the few policies that could pertain to LGBTQ+ students is a "bias response" form. Berry's website states to file a report "if you have experienced or witnessed a dignity violation at Berry College, at the following link." However, this approach feels inadequate, as it does not actively prevent harm — it simply reacts to it after the fact, making it seem like the college does not prioritize LGBTQ+ concerns.

LISTEN, the Gathering Space and the Office of Belonging and Community Engagement are first great steps toward a more inclusive college, but more direct action should be taken to advocate for their LGBTQ+ community. On the Office of Belonging and Community Engagement's page, there is a statement saying that over 150 employees took a training course on strategies for non-violence that was provided through the King Center. If that was possible through partnership, there needs to be a mandatory training course for employees on LGBTQ+ communities and how to be more inclusive and supportive. The administration must do more than just maintain the status quo. It is time for Berry to publicly acknowledge the concerns of its LGBTQ+ students and implement tangible, effective changes that will foster a truly inclusive, safe and welcoming community for all.

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

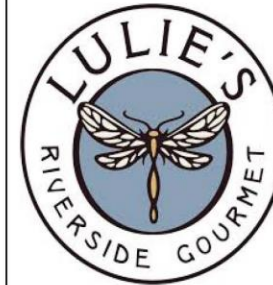
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Best Editorial or Editorial Series

2nd Place Group I

Sydney Martinez

Campus Carrier
Berry College

Student activism on college campuses should not be restricted

The right to protest and assemble is protected under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. Student protesting on campus fosters leadership, advocacy, and the development of critical skills essential for real-world success. Yet people continue to debate whether students should have the right to protest on campus.

Students should be able to protest freely on campus without restrictions. Not only do they raise awareness for problems they deem are overlooked by people of higher power, but they also develop skills that are applicable in the real world as they shape into leaders. As stated in the Metropolitan State University of Denver Research Guide, "It is through advocacy and activism that students develop communication, relationship building, connections, and critical thinking skills." Colleges are meant to challenge students intellectually and socially, and protest provides a platform where students can put their learning into practice by advocating for change and testing their beliefs in real world contexts. These experiences equip students to advocate for social justice, negotiate with authority figures and make an impact in their communities.

This past spring semester, students from various universities and colleges held encampments to raise awareness of the war in Gaza and the increasing death toll. UGA and Columbia University are examples of schools that have recently implemented stricter protest rules to prevent students from disrupting the campus environment.

UGA honors students' First Amendment rights, but the university takes issue when protests block building entrances,

sidewalks or involve the use of loud megaphones, which all disrupt the campus environment. From the university's perspective, these disruptions interfere with the day to day operations of the school, which impede students' access to classes and creates safety concerns. However, activists argue that disruption is often necessary to effect change and draw attention to a cause. While universities have legitimate concerns about disruption, these short-term inconveniences

If their environments begin to turn into chaos with the number of unrestricted protests on campus, then less students will want to apply to a school that is becoming "unsafe"

are often necessary for long-term social progress. After all, non-disruptive protests can go unnoticed, and causing some level of inconvenience is sometimes essential to making a statement that resonates with the public.

Similarly, Columbia University allows protests only in designated spaces and restricts campus access to those with university identification, aiming to balance students' rights to protest with the institution's responsibility to maintain order. Critics of these policies argue that limiting protests to designated zones dilutes their impact, turning activism into a controlled performance rather than a genuine expression of discontent. Real change requires challenging existing structures, not conforming to them.

To apply this to a closer context, Berry College has its own protest policies. Berry refers to protesting as "soliciting" in the Viking Code Student Handbook. Students can solicit for humanitarian causes, but the solicitation must be approved by the dean of students before the event takes place. Additionally, flyers to be posted across campus require approval from the director of student activities and the dean of students. This

isn't as limiting as some other schools, but our freedom to protest is being constrained to limit what we say. Rather than imposing restrictive policies that limit students' ability to protest, universities and colleges alike should focus on fostering a safe but open environment where peaceful — even if disruptive — protests are permitted as long as they do not infringe on others' rights to safety and education.

The schools' perspective are understandable. Students pay for their classes, and if they cannot get to class without being interrupted by a loud megaphone, it becomes problematic not only for the students, but the school's reputation as well. If their environments begin to turn into chaos with the number of unrestricted protests on campus, then less students will want to apply to a school that is becoming "unsafe."

As for the case of UGA and Columbia University, the students' intent was for their schools to cut ties and all business with Israel. Although not all protests yield the exact results students aim for, their unrestricted actions often spark important discussions that can influence policy changes and broader societal outcomes. The demonstrating of power from student activism in a democratic society can be all the necessary for attention to be caught by elected officials and candidates for change to be on ballots.

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

Non-disruptive protests can go unnoticed. Some level of inconvenience essential to making a statement that resonates with the public

This week's instagram poll:

Apple cider or Pumpkin Spice Latte?

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or Editorial Series

1st Place
Group I

Taylor Greaves

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OPINION: Without affirmative action, socioeconomic status is crucial for college admissions

PREV Taylor Greaves | Contributor Feb 20, 2024

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Ivy Baugher

The Red & Black
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OPINION: The price of excellence? Georgia NIL order marks big win for athletes

Ivy Baugher | Contributor Sep 30, 2024 Updated Oct 1, 2024



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Libby Hobbs

The Red & Black
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OPINION: There's no right way to talk about adoption

LIBBY HOBBS Nov 8, 2024 Updated Nov 11, 2024



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Editorial or Editorial Series

1st Place
Group II

Paige Kluba
The Roar
Piedmont University

Opinions

Slider Posts

The COVID Class Misfortune Continues

[Paige Kluba](#), Online Editor

March 25, 2024

On Thursday, March 21, the Piedmont University registrar announced that seniors graduating on Saturday, May 10, will be limited to six tickets for the 9 a.m. undergraduate commencement.

Tickets are required to enter the 1,248-seat Cave Arena of the Johnny Mize Athletic Center where graduation is scheduled to be held. No extra tickets will be provided to any graduating undergraduate student for any reason.

Unfortunately, this includes all current enrolled Piedmont students as well. Students will not be allowed to enter the Mize to support their graduating teammates, classmates and friends unless they possess a ticket upon entry.

This will not impact the graduate student ceremony held at 1 p.m. in the afternoon on the same day, also at the Mize. Graduate students will not be limited on tickets due to the smaller number of students who will be recognized.

After receiving the news, students immediately vocalized their frustrations in every way they could on platforms such as the Piedmont app and the anonymous-posting app YikYak.

Past graduating classes in the four years prior ranged from about a combined undergraduate and graduate 200 students to just over 400 students. These numbers have remained



<https://www.piedmont.edu/academics/commencement/graduation-information/>

Graduates celebrating at the graduation ceremony in May of 2023.

Best General News Article

3rd
Place
Group I

Paige
Kluba

The Roar
Piedmont
University

Res Life Cracks Down on Banners

[Paige Kluba](#), Editor-in-Chief

November 12, 2024

At the village student housing, Piedmont students have hung banners outside of their balconies for years. Whether it was a banner to celebrate a championship victory in athletics, a flag representing a holiday or a birthday banner, students have enjoyed celebrating the things they care about in banner form.

On Wednesday morning, flags were raised as many students showed their support for the recently elected 47th president of the United States, Donald Trump. Flags included statements such as “Trump 2024” and “Make America Great Again,” which are common slogans used during the Trump campaign.

By the evening, all of the banners, election-related or not, had been removed without a word to students living in the village.

“Our Trump flag was missing within a small window when we were last outside our room,” said senior village resident Megan Steinmeyer. “A student had taken a political sign that did not belong to them the night before, which caused us to believe that someone stole our flags out of anger.”

The following day, village residents received an email from Piedmont Residence Life announcing that students could retrieve their banners with the understanding that



[Adam Metivier](#)

Baseball Tournament Championship Posters hanging on the railings at the village in 2023.



Best General News Article 2nd Place Group I

Eric Zuniga

Campus Carrier

Berry College

Financial Aid begins issuing official aid offers

Eric Zuniga
deputy news editor

With results of the new Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) delayed, the Admission Office is planning to issue official financial aid offers to new students using an estimator on the Department of Education's website.

The Department of Education soft launched an overhauled FAFSA with fewer questions and new aid eligibility requirements last December. But the new form's launch has been hampered by technical issues. The Department of Education recently announcing that colleges would not receive student's results until March because the department failed to adjust for inflation in the new Student Aid Index (SAI) formula.

The delay has meant that Berry's financial aid office, which typically sends its first aid offers to new students in December, has not issued any aid packages. Vice President of Enrollment Management Andrew Bressette said Berry wants to reduce uncertainty for prospective students.

"We know that understanding cost and value is really important in the college search process," Bressette said.

The estimator tool asks for information about household size, parental marital status, income and savings, producing an approximation of the SAI number that indicates a student's level of financial need. The Office of Admission is asking prospective families to submit this estimate to a form on the online portal for admitted students.

According to Bressette, the estimator should produce similar results to the official FAFSA for most students.

"If you own a business or you own a farm or you have a parent who's just retired or is about to retire, the estimator is not quite going to be as accurate," Bressette said. "But for most of our students, it should be pretty close."

While all students are still required to submit the FAFSA, the admission office will be using the estimator to prepare full aid offers for prospective students. Berry is promising to guarantee the aid in these preliminary offers if they do not exceed a student's final offer, based on the results of their FAFSA, by more than \$1,000.

"In some cases, your official award means we need to give you more aid [than the early offer]," Bressette said. "In some cases, we may have overestimated your aid. If that's the case, I'm going to say, is your SAI within a thousand? If so, we're going to keep that same package."

Bressette said that students whose preliminary offers are over \$1,000 more than their final offer will have their situations evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

As of last week, 600 families had used the estimator, a number

Bressette hopes to increase.

"I'd love to see at least half of our admitted students [use the tool], so you'd be talking about almost 2,000 families," Bressette said.

Bressette said that Berry's decision to offer preliminary aid offers fits within its commitment to be transparent about the college's cost with prospective families. He feels that this may put Berry at a competitive advantage compared to other colleges, many of which are simply delaying deposit deadlines.

"It's just saying, how can we continue to do this great thing that families need and appreciate in this moment when we're all trying to figure out how this is going to work," Bressette said.

Berry's decision to guarantee offers before receiving official FAFSA results puts the college at risk of awarding more aid than it had previously budgeted for. However, the financial consequences of admitting a smaller class than projected are greater, according to Bressette.

"Under-enrolling is a budget deficit you live with for four years," Bressette said.

According to Bressette, Berry's admission numbers are on track for this point in the year. The college has admitted more applicants now than at this point last year, and the number of students making deposits is close to the average for the past three years. But lower-income families tend to be the last to make college decisions, which makes early aid offers especially important.

"While our trajectory looks good, we run the risk of not getting there if we're not attentive to those for whom aid is really going to be the deciding factor," Bressette said.

Sophomore Bonner scholar Monserrat Alvarez is one student for whom an early aid offer was important. When she first applied to Berry, she received early confirmation that a signature scholarship would cover her expenses.

"That was honestly what solidified my

decision to come to Berry, just knowing the amount of money they were going to help me out with—I didn't have to worry about being in debt," Alvarez said.

Though she received an early aid offer, filling out the FAFSA for the first time was a challenge for Alvarez as a first-generation college student.

"Both of my parents did not go to college, so they never had to fill out the FAFSA," Alvarez said. "It was really just me just figuring it out on my own and talking to some of my friends to see how they were doing it. I didn't have that support system to help me figure out."

Alvarez faced little difficulty filling out the new FAFSA this year, but she noted that many cannot submit the form because their parents do not have Social Security numbers, a known issue. "I know for sure my other friends have struggled a lot," Alvarez said. "They can't even submit it."

The delayed and mismanaged FAFSA launch may disproportionately hurt those already underrepresented at colleges, according to Bressette.

"My worry is that those students that need the aid the most are probably the ones least likely to get the FAFSA done," Bressette said.

Bressette said that Berry is ultimately aiming to minimize these inequities.

"That anxiety around affordability could drive families to look at other choices or make different choices or just say college is out of the question," Bressette said. "That's really what we're trying to prevent as much as possible."

While new students will receive early aid offers with the estimator tool, the financial aid timeline for returning students remains unchanged. Students who have questions about their aid situation are encouraged to visit the Financial Aid Office, available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Feb. 13 - 19

Officers responded to five fire alarms.

Feb. 16

Officers responded to a report of stolen property. The property was found but was damaged.

Feb. 18

Officers responded to Centennial in reference to a student potentially being drugged.

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Cultural Event series highlights local Cherokee history

Carson Bonner
news editor

Eric Zuniga
deputy news editor

Berry's history department, in collaboration with Rome's Chieftains Museum, hosted Michael Morris, a professor of history at College of Coastal Georgia, for a lecture on the history of Cherokee removal in Georgia last Thursday. The talk was part of a new lecture series stemming from a partnership between the history department and the Chieftains Museum.

According to Associate Professor of History Christy Snider, the museum approached Berry's history department after receiving a grant to host scholars in Native American history. Snider agreed to offer the space needed to hold these lectures.

"They asked us if we'd be interested and I thought it was a great opportunity for us to provide space, they're bringing these lecturers," Snider said. "I think it is a topic that is of interest to not only the Rome community but to our students given our location on Cherokee land."

Olivia Cawood, the Chieftains Museum's executive director, said that Morris has conducted research on the political aspects of Cherokee removal in the 1830s. He has also worked on resources for schools.

"He's done a lot of research and published several articles and a couple of books on Cherokee history, mostly concentrating on those legal and political issues," Cawood said. "He's also done work on the Muscogee or the Creek tribes around here and done a lot of K-12 education resources for the state of Georgia."

Morris primarily spoke on the history surrounding the removal of the Cherokee and the context surrounding President Andrew Jackson's desire for removal. According to Morris, Jackson and southerners at the time viewed Native Americans as subhuman, which heavily influenced the justification behind their removal from the land. The concept of removal also became a North versus South conflict and was thought of in a similar way to the concept of slavery, in which slaves were seen as subhuman and not capable of utilizing freedom.

"Most people—especially white people at the time—would have been just like [the

politicians] and say, the Indians need to go, this is their time to go. The government promised to remove them," Morris said. "They wanted gun-toting, Indian-fighting, British-hating people."

During the lecture, Morris said that missionaries' relationship with Native American Tribal Nations was another point of contention in the Native American removal. Missionaries attempted to bring European farming, legal and religious practices to the tribal groups and in doing so, became close to these groups. As a result, missionary groups opposed Jackson and argued against removal. One missionary, Samuel Worcester, defended Cherokee sovereignty before the Supreme Court.

"The missionaries fought back," Morris said during the lecture. "Worcester called a meeting of all the missionaries at his home in late December 1830, and they signed a pledge that they would not budge, they would not leave the Indians and they would not

counsel them to sign [the removal document]." Despite the opposition, the American government proceeded with removal during the 1830s. According to Morris, the military began to round up Cherokee who had not gone to detention camps after a voluntary removal deadline. An estimated 4,000 people died during the forced migration to Indian Territory in Oklahoma, which Morris said can be considered an act of ethnic cleansing.

"I would consider it ethnic cleansing, maybe not to the extermination point, because most people thought they were going to become extinct by the end of the century," Morris said. "They had enough scientific knowledge to think it was predestined and just going to happen."

The events of Cherokee removal, which took place in northwest Georgia, are immediately relevant to Berry's campus and the Rome community. Snider said that it is important to acknowledge that Berry sits on what was once Cherokee land. She added that Chief of Staff Casee Gilbert has been working on a land acknowledgement for the college.

"I talked to Casee before and it sounds like she would also like to put some of that online so that we acknowledge that yes, we're sitting on this land that other people were dispossessed of before," Snider said. "It wasn't like Berry moved in right after the

Cherokee were dispossessed, but it's still an acknowledgment that this occurred where we are and we should be cognizant of that."

Native Americans still face significant disadvantages today. Members of tribes were the last group in the United States to receive citizenship, with Congress only granting native citizenship in 1924. The legal rights of tribes have become more recognized in the courts since the 1970s, but many tribes still struggle with unemployment and poverty.

"What the government can't quite solve is unemployment, gangs and drug problems out in some of the western tribes," Morris said. "Tribes like the Cherokees are finding creative solutions like the casino, and if you know anything about the casinos, enrolled tribal members get two checks a year from the tribal proceeds. It's not enough to live upon per se, but \$10,000 can help pay for a car; it can help pay for college."

Morris finds parallels between the conflict over native removal and the current political situation. In his talk, he compared the controversy over removal to current debates over reproductive and religious rights. He said that natives faced prejudice similar to what the LGBTQ community faces today.

"I always think of the LGBTQ community as the new group that people are saying don't belong, don't fit in," Morris said. "People that believe those things almost act like a fear of contamination—if you touch my child, they'll suddenly want to paint their fingernails. It's like it's something that can be caught, so it's different groups."

According to Cawood, it is important to acknowledge and remember Cherokee history because it is a difficult part of history in the region that is easily overlooked.

"I think it's important because it is often an area of our history that we don't like to talk about," Cawood said. "It's difficult and it's hard to reconcile, but that doesn't mean that it's not important or that it shouldn't be shared. It just means that we have to take that hard look at it and learn from it so that we're not in danger of repeating those same mistakes, and so that we have a full picture of history instead of just a one-sided version."

One way that students can involve themselves in preserving Cherokee history is by interning or working at the Chieftain's

Museum. There are often summer internships open for history majors that provide an opportunity to engage with the museum and its history. In years past there has also been a Cherokee Heritage Day, where people have gathered in Ridge Ferry Park to celebrate and acknowledge Cherokee history and culture.

"They're hiring six interns over at the Chieftains Museum for the summer," Snider said. "I just sent our history majors those internship opportunities. I'd love to have more

of these kind of connections open to students so that they can get involved."

Assuming that there is continued interest and continued speaker availability for this series of Cultural Event credits, it will continue into next school year. According to Snider, there has been high

student attendance, and it seems as though there will be speakers able and willing to lead discussions at Berry events.

"They're going to bring some speakers in, so we're going to meet and talk about whether any of those would be applicable with interest to Berry students as well," Snider said. "And if so, we'll do something similar again in the fall semester. I'd really love it if it interests more students."

What the government
can't quite solve is
unemployment, gangs and
drug problems out in some
of the western tribes.

Michael Morris

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General
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3rd Place
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CM Wahl
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Trafficking: A community response

CRIME, FEATURES, LOCAL, NEWS, ON-CAMPUS

This article is a follow-up to the story “The worst of Masters traffic” by CM Wahl, posted online here and in the April 24 print edition on page 1.



Panelists (from left to right) Anita Ivy, Jared Williams, Kari Viola-Brooke, and Terry Core discussed human trafficking in Augusta. Photo by Rakiyah Lenon.

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By CM Wahl | News editor

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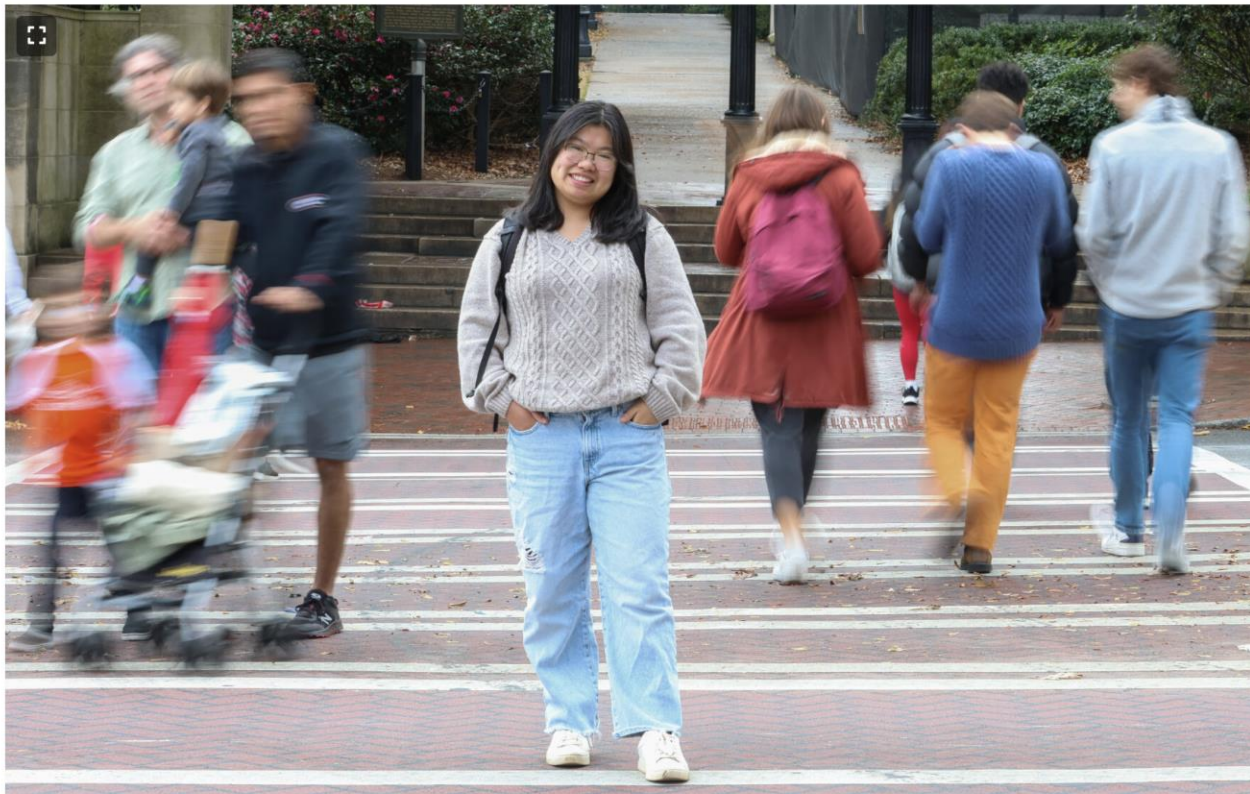
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Disability visibility: Navigating UGA with invisible disabilities

Samantha Hurley Feb 3, 2024 Updated Oct 16, 2024 6 min to read



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'A long time coming': C.L.A.S.S. Advocate program's removal worries Black students

Dawn Sayer Apr 4, 2024 Updated Apr 21, 2024 7 min to read



PREV



NEXT



Article: Investigative Reporting 3rd Place Group I

Aileene-Bjork Goodman

The Stallion
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Agricultural College



“Your Interests, Your Voice, Your Newspaper.”

News

January 25, 2024



TAI GOODMAN
Newsletter Editor

Housing Runs Out of Homes

Housing applications for the 2024-2025 year have been filled. However, the most jarring part is how all spots were reserved in two days.

A large portion of the student body living on campus were left irate and worried, resulting in anonymous app Yik Yak being overflowed with anger towards the situation and the Housing Department.

Mr. Ryan Hogan, ABAC's Vice President of Enrollment Management, Marketing, and Communications, as well as a representative of Public Relations, was able to answer questions and verify information regarding this situation.

There were 450 applications pertaining to the Place 100 and 200 dormitories. Both buildings contain a mixture of 2-, 3-, and 4-person dorms complete with individual rooms, a living room, and a kitchen with a stove and dishwasher. Note that returning upperclassmen and freshmen could complete the housing application.

Jeffrey Holland, a freshman wildlife major, was one of the last 40 applicants, and he originally hesitated until he heard how fast spots were taken.

“I’m kind of surprised I made it in,” he said. “It really seems messed up that we only have 450 spots and that campus is doing nothing about it.”

“I’m not really happy with it,” said Abby Farquhar, a junior biology major who did not successfully apply. “The applications were not advertised very well this semester, so I did not know about the process until it was full.”

Hogan confirmed one key difference between the 2024 and 2023 application: the number of applications remaining boldly



ABAC Place sign. Photo by Tai Goodman.

displayed on the home page.

He said, “This was not done for the Fall 2023 application and was added to better communicate with our students,” which was an improvement to the format overall to be transparent and direct.

For some, this seemed helpful, but to others, it was a domino effect that spiked urgency. The Fall 2023 applications filled up in late March, which is a stark contrast to 2024’s.

“I’m sure it made people more urgent and caused some panic,” said Alexander Thibeault, a freshman crop and soil science major who didn’t get in, “but the main issue is that this shouldn’t be happening and that there shouldn’t be this lack of housing.”

Ideal priorities for those who need housing are those that live far away, can’t drive, or have unsuitable conditions at home.

When asked about priorities, Hogan said, “Students that are given 12-month-

housing are priority,” and that “a select few organizations have reserved spaces in the residence halls.” Thus, perhaps this could change in the future to accommodate students.

Junior ag-studies major Jennah Mercado applied after being informed, but there was still room for worry. “I have an ESA [Emotional Support Animal], and as far as I know, most apartments aren’t pet friendly, and I don’t have \$150 to get him certified.”

Housing released an email Jan. 11 confirming all rooms are reserved, mentioning a “waiting list,” and reminding students of a November email regarding the application process.

The neighbor waiver’s removal was also a major change in the email, removing a condition for residence. Yet again, perception has bent what this response meant based on timing.

On Housing’s side, this was a public response to provide support and explanation

to disgruntled students.

“...we understood our students needed clarification on the status of the housing process,” said Hogan. “ABAC Housing wants to be as open and transparent as possible with students.”

For some students, the email was perceived as a means for covering a retreat.

“I feel like ABAC is [retreating], but I don’t think they’ll get away from it,” Holland said. “Students on campus are actually uniting under a common belief, and that might prove strong.”

WALB News 10 in Albany covered the story Jan. 12 about students’ overwhelming dissatisfaction. Housing was not against this, according to Hogan, as the discussion of these issues was purely just an exercise of free expression.

ABAC’s Student Government Association held a petition stand in front of Town Hall with clearance from Housing on January 16. The petition was to create a new residence hall and improve general conditions to provide a satisfactory living environment.

“We have been following the process for the University System of Georgia to conduct a feasibility study to address ABAC’s housing needs,” Hogan said concerning the idea of another building. This would be beneficial due to increased enrollment.

While a majority of the student body is dissatisfied with this situation, Housing is trying their best to help anyone in need. What remains is the question of what to do for those that didn’t get in.

Some students put faith in the waiting list, others plan on getting an apartment, some may take online classes, but the worst case scenario are those that might take a break or drop out. In time, hopefully everyone can be accommodated for what they need.

Article: Investigative Reporting 2nd Place Group I

and James
Fox
Campus Carrier
Berry College

Thursday, Feb. 8, 2024

NEWS

Page 7

Students struggle to get by on stagnant LifeWorks wages Low pay, hour limits and minimal raises push some to seek jobs off campus

Eric Zuniga
deputy news editor

James Fox
staff writer

Stagnant wages and limited opportunities for advancement are leaving some students dissatisfied with Berry's LifeWorks program, pushing some to seek jobs off campus in search of extra income.

Berry last revised its signature student work program in 2020, before the onset of the highest surge in inflation since 1981. The college raised its base wage for student workers from \$7.25 per hour to \$9 per hour while reducing the maximum number of hours students could work.

Although student work wages have remained unchanged, inflation has increased prices by a cumulative 17% over the past three years, according to statistics from the Department of Labor. This means that student workers are now earning significantly less than what \$9 per hour was worth in 2020.

Senior music major Sydney Godfrey has had to navigate the reality of living off student work wages during her time at Berry. As a first-generation college student, she was attracted to Berry because of its emphasis on work opportunities, but eventually found that on-campus jobs would not be enough to pay her living expenses.

"Once you get older, you have more expenses—I have loans to pay off, I have bills for my pets and things like that, I have a car payment," Godfrey said. "If I only had the Berry job, I'd quite literally not make it."

Godfrey now has two jobs off campus, working as a waitress at Olive Garden and as a music intern at a local church, in addition to a position on campus as a lead stage manager for the music department. She said that working so much has taken a toll on her wellbeing and academic performance.

"It's really frustrating because you get out of a nine to five day of straight classes all that time, and then you have to go straight to work. It makes you almost scream," Godfrey said. "It's definitely been hard for sleeping and stuff. I don't have time to do a lot of homework, so I have to take my little breaks during the day that I have now."

The low student work wages have made it difficult for Godfrey to justify keeping her job on campus. Although she

works in a supervisory role that is relevant to her degree, she often feels that the pay is not enough for her to fully commit to the job.

"The most difficult thing for me is probably having the motivation to do that job on top of the other two that I do," Godfrey said. "I want to devote all of my time to this Berry job because I love it, but it's hard to do that if you're getting paid more at another place."

Many students feel limited by the 12-hour weekly work limit and the current pay scale for LifeWorks jobs. The pay for level 4 and 5 supervisory positions is \$9.50 per hour, only 50 cents more than the introductory wage. Senior Hadley Davis, who also works shifts at Olive Garden in addition to a job on-campus in grounds, said that these higher-level roles are not being compensated fairly.

If you want to keep
the student work
program alive and
thriving like it is
now, you're going
to have to raise the
pay.

Sydney Godfrey

usher. While she appreciates the relevant work experience, she finds it difficult to get a good number of hours in a crowded department.

"It's not necessarily the wages as much as it is the hours—like, I get paid two hours a week at the Berry [Farm] Enterprises," Roy said. "I do remember them saying it would help us pay, but honestly, it's kind of just pocket money. It'll just get you by, bare necessities."

Roy said that she now makes significantly less than she did at a job at Dunkin' Donuts, which has made it difficult to budget for anything beyond necessities.

"It was definitely hard to adjust to getting a smaller [wage], because I think my paychecks were like \$300, \$400, and now they're like \$50," Roy said. "I think that I buy less for myself. I don't really look past bare necessities anymore, or if a friend

"I have friends on my [grounds] crew who have worked all four years and every single summer they become student supervisors because of it," Davis said. "They're only making 50 cents more than me, and they do a lot more than I do, and that's just not fair. They really need to have higher increases."

Godfrey said that raises should be based off amount of work experience rather than position level.

"One of the people who works for me has been a level one the entire three years just because he didn't ask for a raise," Godfrey said. "But it's like, I shouldn't have to ask for a raise. It should be an automatic, 'you've been in your position more than one year, good job.'"

Freshman animal science major Sarah Roy works in two positions on campus, one at a chicken coop under the Berry Farms enterprises and another as a Cultural Events



Bear Luke | CAMPUS CARRIER

Sophomore Haven Dean sorts mail at the post office. The mailroom is one of many student employers on campus.

has a birthday coming up, I don't really have the [ability] to go out for stuff anymore."

Though Berry often emphasizes its history as a school that has given opportunities to the disadvantaged, the brunt of low work wages is borne by students who are already struggling to pay for college. Davis said that many students like herself don't have the privilege of financial support from their family.

"I myself am in a scholarship group of people who come from less than fortunate backgrounds, and I know a lot of us struggle to survive here because we don't have parents that are supporting us," Davis said. "There are a lot of us here who don't have that privilege, and it's hard for sure."

Davis feels that the current wages also hurt the college as a whole, giving students little reason to take their work seriously. "A more serious pay would lead to more serious workers," Davis said. "People could feel like they're actually getting real experience, making real money and actually making a difference for their future lives, instead of just wasting time here to make some money to survive."

Though students disagree on the feasibility of raising work wages, many agree that significant changes should be made to the LifeWorks program, which cost the college \$5.4 million in 2019. Godfrey said that Berry should focus more on giving students meaningful work opportunities.

"A lot of these jobs are just us cutting the grass, or us sitting the desk at the library, or us simply sitting and doing our homework," Godfrey said. "If they can't accurately say everyone's going to have a job that's going to benefit you, don't advertise that."

In Godfrey's view, if Berry wants to keep student work as a

Article: Investigative Reporting 1st Place Group I

Anna Gorman
Campus Carrier
Berry College

Thursday, Nov. 21, 2024

NEWS

Page 3

Berry to soon acknowledge Indigenous land

Anna Gorman
staff writer

An effort to acknowledge the Indigenous land surrounding Berry by the administration is currently underway. According to Chief of Staff Casee Gilbert, research related to the land acknowledgement is still in progress.

The land, originally belonging to the Cherokee Nation in 1855 spanned the northwest corner of Georgia and stretched from North Carolina to Alabama, and included parts of Mississippi and Tennessee. It was taken from them during the Trail of Tears and sold off through the lottery system.

Though the property Berry was built on was not bought from the lottery system, it was purchased from people who had originally gotten in the lottery, History Department Chair Christy Snider said.

"Berry did not directly benefit from the displacement of the Cherokee," Snider said.

While research on the land is still underway, Gilbert and her team have worked to create a campus marker to acknowledge the Cherokee and their land, Gilbert said over email. The marker includes information on the land lotteries and the impact of historical landmarks such as the Indian Removal Act of 1830, Worcester v. Georgia and the Trail of Tears.

"This marker will be placed on Viking Trail," Gilbert said over email.

Despite this, Jim Watkins, professor of English, rhetoric and writing, said Berry's recognition of its Indigenous history could be improved with an official land

acknowledgement statement.

"I personally would like to see Berry put [out] a land acknowledgement statement, but I also realize there are many Indigenous leaders who don't really find those land acknowledgement statements very powerful or meaningful," Watkins said. "Some see it as just a kind of tokenism that doesn't really change anything. If you feel bad about it, give some of the land back. But others see it as an important statement that we do need to recognize, that another people once thrived on this land."

The English and History departments strive to provide students with informal opportunities to learn more about the Cherokee and the land.

"I happen to be on a podcast about Indigenous knowledge about the Coosa River Basin, and all the guests on that podcast were Cherokee and Muscogee Indians who had knowledge about the Native American practices with the land," Watkins said. "We brought some of those people to give a talk in the spring semester of last year."

The English department also offers a Native American literature class, where students can learn about the stories and context of the land and Indigenous culture. It will be taught by Watkins next semester.

This semester, the history department has partnered with the Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home to bring speakers to campus to talk about the region's Cherokee history.

The Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home, located in Rome, is the historic home of Major Ridge, a Cherokee leader who represented the two factions of the Cherokees

who assimilated into white American culture, his being pro-Treaty of New Echota, which traded Cherokee land in the east for land in what is now Oklahoma back in 1835.

"Our mission is to tell and interpret the lives of the Ridge family because they're the ones who lived here, and it's a part of our local history," Interim Museum Manager Cameron Abney said.

Abney encouraged all to visit and support the museum.

"We always welcome visitors, group tours and, of course, membership," Abney said. "We always welcome guests and field trips to come. That's the best way you can support us."

Watkins said colleges have a responsibility to protect and honor the history of their land.

"Colleges have a responsibility to uncover new information, share information with the communities where they're located and should act as an institution that values local knowledge about what happened in those communities and brings information to the local community," Watkins said.

As an example, Watkins said there are faculty at Berry looking to erect a statue in Rome memorializing lynching victims documented in the early 20th century.

"That has been done in part through the expertise of people on our faculty and working in cross-community relations with clergy and members of the Black community, getting oral histories about segregation and lynching and putting all those things together," Watkins said. "So this is just something that every institution of higher learning has a

In Other News

Officers responded to nine fire alarms between Nov. 11 and Nov. 16.

An officer also responded to a student who found firearms and two boxes of ammunition in Pilgrim on Nov. 13.

responsibility to provide opportunities for community knowledge building."

Snider said she would like to see the Indigenous history of the land better communicated around campus.

"[Like] how we have some of the other plaques around campus talking about historical situations, maybe we can do something like that," Snider said. "It'd be great if we had some stronger connections with the modern Cherokee Nation, whether that is study exchanges or things like that. I'd love to see some of those happen."

Abney said the best way to recognize the Indigenous land is to tell the story.

"You know, recognize that things have not always been this way, and honor the way they lived and the things they did, because the way they lived was a little different than the Europeans that came here," Abney said. "But just because it's different doesn't mean it's wrong. Continuing to tell their story and respecting the legacy that they left here for us — that's the most important thing."

Best News Article: Investigative Reporting 3rd Place Group II

Bailey
Wilson

The Spectator
Valdosta State University

12/4/24, 8:03 PM

Red Alert! VSU free speech in danger - The Spectator



RED ALERT! VSU FREE SPEECH IN DANGER

📅 February 28, 2024 📁 Campus Life, News, Spotlight, Top Headlines, Topstory 👁️ 12,784 Views

VSU has earned a “red light” rating from the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression, the worst rating we have ever received. Here’s what it means for the university community.

The Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression, or FIRE, is a national organization dedicated to the preservation of free speech. They have helped college campuses in particular since their inception in 1999, though they began to branch out in 2022.

According to FIRE’s speech code ratings, a “red light” rating for a university is defined as “at least one policy that clearly and substantially restricts the freedom of speech of students.” In this case, the main concerns were regarding VSU’s Information Resources Acceptable Use Policy.

“It prohibits using the internet to post ‘sexually-explicit material, hate-based material, hacker-related material, or other material that may be deemed detrimental to the integrity, image, and mission of the University.’”

Laura Beltz, FIRE’s Director of Policy Reform, goes into further detail on why this is a problem.

“A public university can’t limit speech merely because it is deemed sexually explicit, hateful, or detrimental to the image of the university. That ban includes a great deal of protected speech, such as a tweet criticizing

Best News Article: Investigative Reporting 2nd Place Group II

Eric Zuniga and Anna Gorman Campus Carrier Berry College

Thursday, Sept. 19, 2024

NEWS

Page 3

Berry Police bolsters shooting training, security

Eric Zuniga
news editor

Anna Gorman
staff writer

With many concerned about school safety after the recent shooting at Apalachee High School in Winder, Ga., the Berry College Police Department (BCPD) is promoting its active shooter response training and continuing its efforts to make campus more secure.

According to Berry College Police Chief Ryan Chesley, all Berry police officers receive intensive active shooter response training.

"Our officers are in that as often as we can get them into some sort of active shooter response training," Chesley said. "Some of them have been through sort of like a multidisciplinary approach training that combines emergency medical service, law enforcement response, even communication center training, so they can get a more holistic operational exposure."

BCPD also facilitates shooting response training for members of the Berry community. Any group on campus can request the training, which is meant to prepare participants to think and react quickly in an active shooter event.

"The most important thing about these trainings is just generating dialogue — period — because one of things we know is that the more we have conversations about a topic, the more people engage in it mentally, the more situationally aware people become of their surroundings," Chesley said. "We know that that assists any sort of response or reactive actions on the part of the person because they have had time to pre-think that."

Chesley said that the department is making more concerted efforts to target its training to different departments on campus.

"What we have done more recently is to go more local with our training opportunities," Chesley said. "We've tried to solicit that and offer that training to departments, or geographical areas on campus — maybe an office suite or a department that lives in a certain space — because it allows us to address

particular safety concerns."

According to Chesley, 23 different groups participated in the training last year, including Krannert night staff, Oak Hill staff and the animal science and nursing departments. Interest in the session changes depending on current events.

"We've been doing [the training] for about a decade or longer, so it isn't a new program, but like a lot of things, interest in that program sort of cycles," Chesley said. "Right now, I can tell you, there's an enormous interest in active shooter training, and that's because of the things that are going on locally and nationwide."

Resident assistants (RA) participate in the shooting response sessions as part of their job training.

"The reason we focus on RAs is because they're in residence halls, and if that happens, typically that's going to be one of the areas of target outside of academic buildings," Dean of Students Lindsey Taylor said.

Sophomore Emma Courtney, an RA in West Mary, said all RAs were given training over the summer two weeks before the semester began. Floyd County police and BCPD showed them videos of active shooter drills and simulations of how police would respond to an active shooter threat. RAs were then walked through the steps to take if there was an active shooter on campus. They were also taught how to stop bleeding.

"I feel like they presented the material in a way that made it not so scary, but at the same time it's a heavy topic, so there was a weight to it," Courtney said. "I think the way they presented the information helped. I don't want to say it dumbed it down, because that was definitely not what it did, but it helped make it easier to talk about."

Chesley encouraged students to reach out to the police department if they are interested in receiving the training.

In addition to training, all faculty and staff are given a folder containing information on emergency response, evacuation procedures and active shooter protocols.

Though both Taylor and Chesley encourage this training, specific details about BCPD's response plan are confidential.

"Oftentimes, active shooters are part of the community," Taylor said. "What [we are] never going to share is the full plan of how to respond, because if you share a full plan of what is in place then, more likely than not, the shooter knows."

Berry's extensive security infrastructure further protects the college from active shooter events. BCPD oversees managing and manning the safety technologies used around campus, such as the camera systems, license plate recognition, driver's license, student ID scanning and physical access control, that together create a "layered security approach," according to Chesley.

"No single system is fail-safe, and no single system in and of itself is adequate, but the goal here is just create layers of security," Chesley said. "Berry's extremely fortunate in that we have fairly prescriptive entry and exit points."

This summer, BCPD began installing cameras in parking lots around campus and is now finishing upgrades to its physical access system. The department is looking into deploying near field communications (NFC), short-range contactless communication between devices such as phones and tablets. The technology is used for mobile payments and access control in buildings.

Chesley said that the new camera technology can allow first responders to address an emergency more quickly.

"If we were aware of a threat coming into campus, we have the ability to enter a tag number or a driver's license number to provide us some alert and some earlier indication," Chesley said. "You can't solely rely on those technologies but having them in place is just one more tool at our disposal."

Taylor stressed that, despite technology improving, it is imperative students stay alert for any unusual activity.

"If there's anything I want students to know, if you see something, say something," Taylor said. "It can happen anywhere. So, know where exits are you know?"



Sept. 10 - 14

Officer responded to eight fire alarms.

Sept. 10

Officer provided a medical assist at the Cage.

Sept. 11

Officer responded to a student in Deerfield who felt like they were going to pass out.

Sept. 13

Officer responded to a report of a stolen bicycle at West Mary.

**Berry College
Campus Safety**

For emergencies, call
(706) 236-2262

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

"There have been times when I get screenshots of things of, even if it's not actionable, [BCPD] just wants me to be aware of," Taylor said. "If there are any students of concern, typically that's talked about in a controlled group of people. We make decisions on what type of intervention need to happen, do parents need to be brought in."

Chesley said that BCPD regularly shares information about safety concerns with

Best
News
Article:
Investigati
ve
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Jenna
Arnold
The Spectator
Valdosta State
University

12/4/24, 7:38 PM

Multiple allegations sustained in former police chief investigation - The Spectator

Valdosta State University
1500 North Patterson Street
Valdosta, Georgia, 31698

Ms. Boddie-LaVan

I, Charles Alan Rowe, voluntarily resign my position as Chief of Police for Valdosta State University effective immediately.

Respectfully,



C. Alan Rowe

MULTIPLE ALLEGATIONS SUSTAINED IN FORMER POLICE CHIEF INVESTIGATION

🕒 November 12, 2024 📌 News, Spotlight, Top Headlines, Topstory 👁️ 2,293 Views

The former police chief of VSU was found to have consumed alcohol while on duty, falsified reports and committed other offensive acts during his term, according to an investigative report released earlier this month.

A third-party investigation of former Chief Alan Rowe proved multiple allegations to be sustained. According to the report, he denies or disputes all the findings.

Rowe resigned his position on Oct. 9, 2024, over a year after an incident happened on Oct. 7, 2023.

A report had been made to a Hotline Report system when Rowe was seen consuming alcohol during a tailgate for the Delta State vs. VSU football game on Oct. 7. One officer said that he had smelled alcohol on him and was told to leave the scene and to not share information about the incident.

Rowe had worn a police themed t-shirt and was using a state vehicle throughout the evening. The Deputy Chief of the Georgia Southern University PD, J. Clay Gracen, conducted the investigation into his case and stated that he arrived in a state vehicle and left in his state vehicle after the game. He used the vehicle to escort the football team with the lights and sirens activated.

Best Website

3rd Place

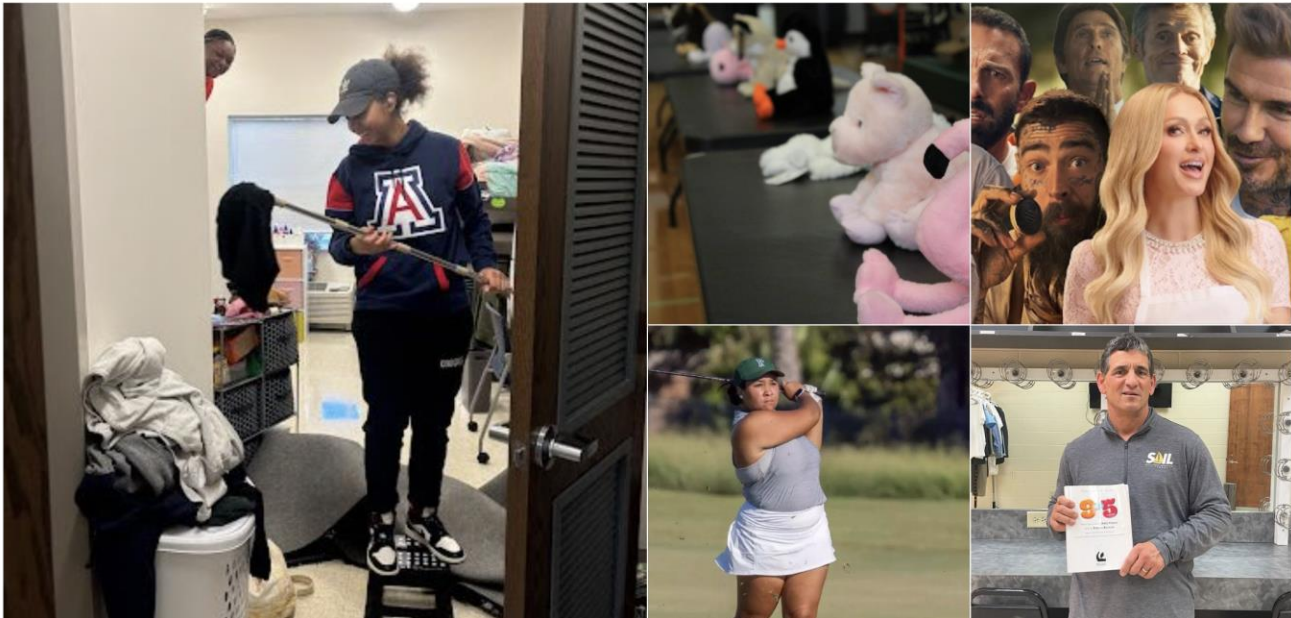
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Best Website 2nd Place

The Red & Black University of Georgia

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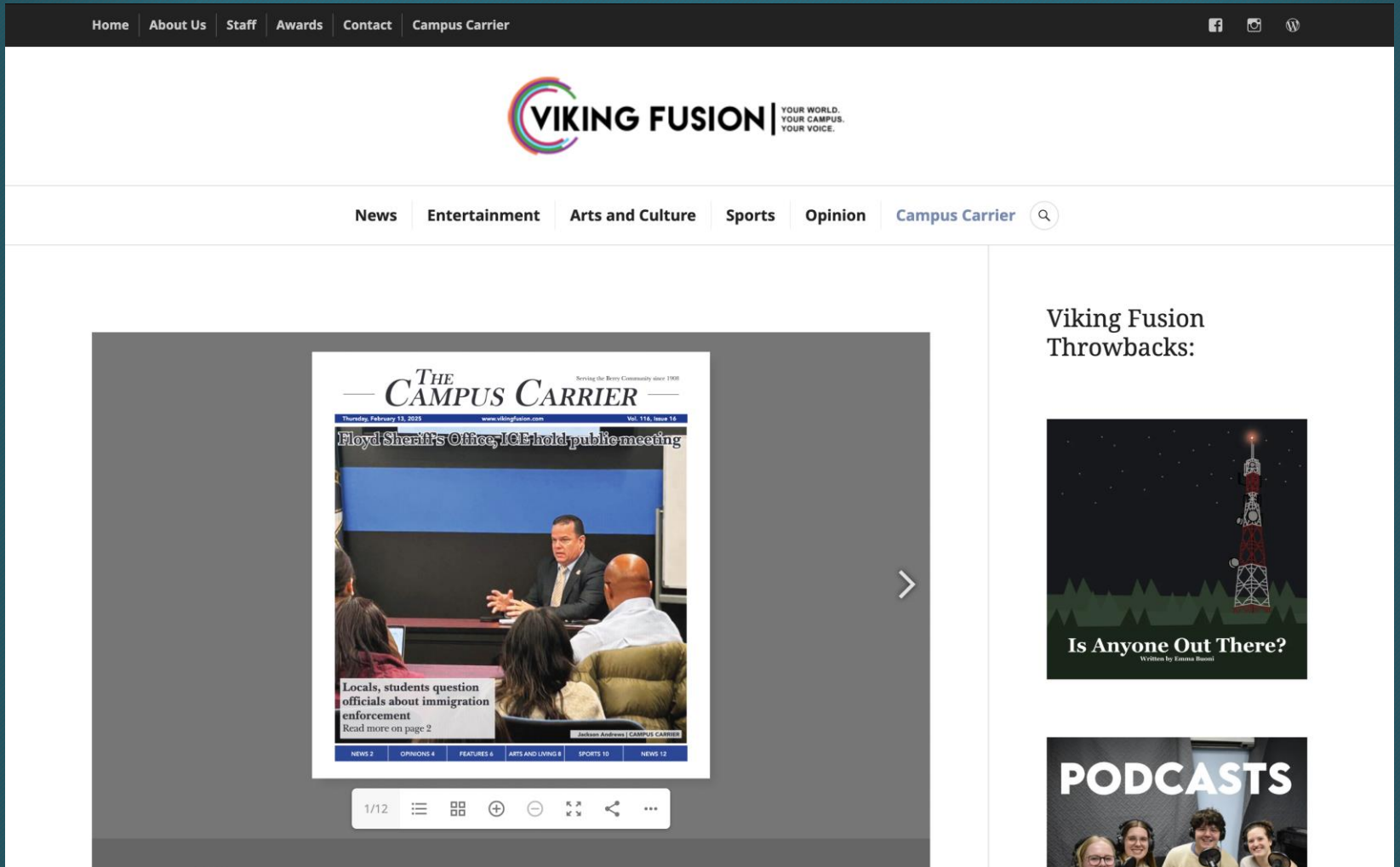
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Thursday, September 26, 2024

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Vol. 116, Issue 5

SGA prepares for crowded freshman class elections



Freshmen will choose from field of 23 candidates to represent their class
Read more on page 6

Bear Luke | CAMPUS CARRIER

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*The
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Valdosta
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December 5, 2024 — @vsu_spectator | @vsuspectator — Volume 100, Issue 4

The Spectator

The *unfiltered, uncensored* voice of the students

VSU 2024 GRADUATES

TOGETHER WE BURN BRIGHTER; LET'S CELEBRATE THE FLAME

See Letters From
Our Graduating
Editors pg. 2

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Graduate Photos
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See **Blazers vs
The Golden
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Katie Holton

Improvement Award 1st Place

The Stallion

Abraham Baldwin Agricultura l College



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GA agriculture's urgent
need for a new farm bill

Thursday
21 November, 2024

The Stallion

Volume 72 Issue 06

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

www.abacstallion.com

Hunt Stevenson named Mr. ABAC 2024

ALEXIS MACK
Entertainment Editor

Hunt Stevenson of Macon, GA has been named Mr. ABAC 2024.

The event was hosted by ABAC's Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS) club.

This is their second time hosting it since the school's local chapter was established in 2020. The last Mr. ABAC contest was held in 2018.

Sponsors for the event include 3 Flags Dairy and Hestcraft.

Colton Peacock, the winner of Mr. ABAC 2023, and Jenna Williams, the current Ms. ABAC 2024 titleholder, acted as the masters of ceremonies. They both provided commentary and information about each of the event's 16 contestants.

Judges for the pageant were: Carolyn Ellis, who established the Carolyn Ellis School of Dance Studio (now the Mallory Ward School of Dance) in Tifton; Mitchel Sheffield, an ABAC alum and former president of the Agronomy Club; and Madison Lane, an ABAC alum and former vice president of MANRRS.

Starting the night with a choreographed line dance, the contestants performed to a mashup of songs. The judging for the event officially began with the creative wear portion. Their personality, talent, and charms were emphasized as they donned fun costumes and engaged with the crowd.

After initial introductions were completed, each contestant returned to the stage one by one in suits for the formal wear. Peacock and Williams provided details of their aspirations, lives, and hobbies to the crowd.

During the intermission, attendees

were provided with the opportunity to donate money to boxes decorated by each member, with the proceeds going to charity. The chosen charity for the event was The Weathered but Strong Hurricane Relief Fund, created by a coalition of GA organizations in response to Hurricane Helene.

After intermission, the top 10 finalists were selected and lined up for the on-stage question portion. Each finalist was given a randomly selected question with only a moment to produce an answer. The questions were about topics such as their inspirations and what they would change given the opportunity. The total points were then added, and the winners were selected.

Awards: Mr. Congeniality – Ridge Smith, sponsored by Residence Life and Housing; Best Essay – Nathan Cain, sponsored by Collegiate FFA; 2nd Runner-Up – Dee Harris, sponsored by ABAC Ambassadors; 1st Runner-Up – Connor Hunt, sponsored by Baptist Collegiate Ministry; Mr. ABAC – Hunt Stevenson, sponsored by Sigma Alpha Beta Nu.

In response to his win, Stevenson said, "I'm ecstatic and just blown away. I tried my best for myself and the school. Thank you to ABAC. Thank you to everyone!"

MANRRS Vice President Kayla Brenton and Treasurer Nayeli Fernandez also received awards for their hard work and dedication to the event's organization.

For winning the Mr. ABAC pageant, Hunt has received a monetary award from MANRRS. He will be representing the title at Stallion Days, Homecoming, Graduation, and other notable ABAC events.



Jenna Williams, Ms. ABAC 2024, pinning the newly named Mr. ABAC 2024's sash.



All Mr. ABAC contestants posing together after the pageant's closing. PHOTOS | KOBE ROSS

General Photography Excellence

3rd Place

The Spectator

Valdosta State
University



September 12, 2024 — @vsu_spectator | @vsuspectator — Volume 100, Issue 1

The Spectator

The unfiltered, uncensored voice of the students



Katie Holton

General Photography Excellence 2nd Place

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Vol. 116, Issue 10

Board of Trustees unanimously selects new president



**Baylor business dean
Sandeep Mazumder will be
Berry's ninth president**
Read more on page 2

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS REINOLDS KOZELLE

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Photography Excellence

1st Place

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VOL. 131 | No. 16 | Athens, Georgia

Thursday, February 29, 2024

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UGA MOURNS

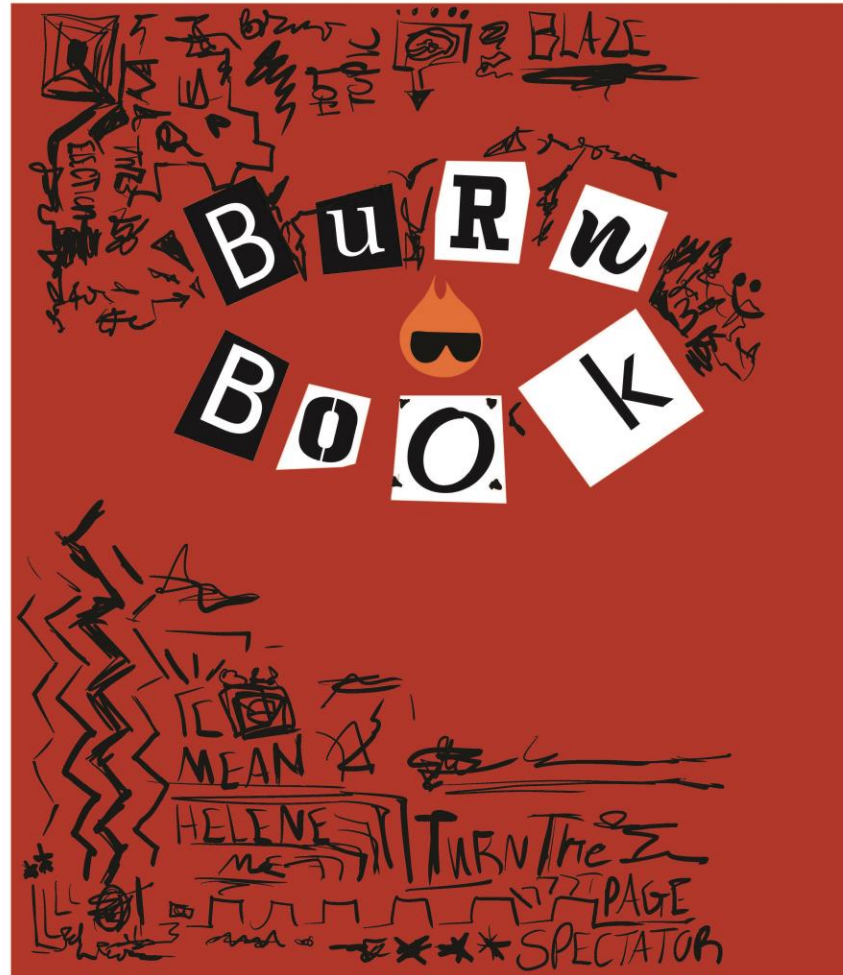
Community unites for Laken Riley and Wyatt Banks



Shirley Duncan, president of the University of Georgia Pledgeline Council, speaks at a community vigil in memory of UGA freshman Wyatt Banks and Augusta University nursing student Laken Riley at UGA Tate Plaza in Athens, Georgia, on Monday, Feb. 26, 2024. Both students died on campus within 24 hours of each other and hundreds came together to mourn their loss. PHOTOGRAPH BY [unreadable]

The Spectator

The *unfiltered, uncensored* voice of the students



Katie Holton

Layout &
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Excellence

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Division A

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Division A

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3rd Place
Division B

The Roar
Piedmont University



Holiday Happenings



DECEMBER 2024



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Layout & Design Excellence

2nd Place

Division B

The Stallion

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College



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P. 7 Must-have dorm room essentials

P. 13 South GA farmers face harsh summer weather

Thursday
8 August, 2024

The Stallion

Volume 72 Issue 01

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

www.abacstallion.com

How ABAC Traditions Came to Be

ANSLEE JAMES
Editor-in-Chief

Truck and Tractor Pull

The Ag Engineering Technology (AET) Club hosted the first Truck and Tractor Pull in Mar. 1974. According to "The History of ABAC," over 10,000 people attended the event, and the ABAC tractor named "Cracker Jack" won the 7,000 and 9,000-pound classes.

Several students came to watch the event outside the construction of the new women's dorm but moved to Bowen Hall after a can of mace was released in the dorm. Students then began streaking in the surrounding area, resulting in four students' arrests.

"When I accepted the job as president, I made an oath to uphold all Georgia laws, and indecent exposure is punishable by law," former ABAC President Clyde Driggers said.

By 1975, the AET Club expected a crowd of 20,000 at the annual tractor pull. The event was held annually until 1984.

In 2015, the AET club brought the full-scale event back for the first time in 30 years. The event opened with ABAC Ambassador Samuel Peraza singing the national anthem. At the time, the trucks

weighed up to 65,000 pounds.

Although the Truck and Tractor Pull had a 30-year hiatus, its popularity has stayed strong over the past nine years since its comeback.

Annual Rodeo

The first rodeo held in ABAC's history was on May 24, 1969, and was sponsored by the Baldwin Rodeo Club, the Student Cabinet, and several alumni. The rodeo had bronco busting, bull riding, bulldogging, and roping events.

Currently, the rodeo has bull riding, bareback riding, saddle bronc riding, steer wrestling, team roping, breakaway roping, barrel racing, and tie down roping events for participants.

At the time, the cost for admission was \$1.75 for adults and \$1 for children. Last year, tickets were \$20 for adults, \$10 for ages 6-17, and free for both ABAC students and children under 5 years old.

In 1973, Terri Jo Langford was crowned Miss Rodeo USA and was sponsored by the Rodeo Club and the ABAC Foundation.

By popular request, the Alumni Association brought back the Gee Haw, Who Back rodeo in 2011, and it has been an attraction for the Tifton community since.

Student Government Association

The first Student Government Association (SGA) President was Eugene G. Adams in 1936; however, SGA went down a long path to become the organization it is today.

Students took the initiative in Feb. of 1962 to start Student Government to gather student input on disciplinary matters. In fall 1961, Lewis Hall adopted a board of proctors who ultimately grew into the present-day Student Government Association.

In Vol. 2 Iss. 04 of The Stallion, one of the members said, "The board is set up for the protection of the students. Without this system, it would be necessary for more students to appear before the Dean of Men."

By 1967, SGA and the Student Judiciary became realities.

"The History of ABAC" said, "The administrative and academic structure for students, faculty, and staff solidified into an active, workable organization."

In 1968, Charles Hall was selected as president, and Emory Johnson was selected as vice president. The student body approved the first SGA constitution in spring 1969.

See Origin, Page 3



Filles team during a basketball game. Photo from Stallion archives.

Stallions Take on Shamwari Experience

HUNTER HOLTON
Staff Writer

Students spent two weeks in the Eastern Cape of South Africa with the Shamwari Conservation Experience. The group spent most of their time on wilderness safari rides and contributing to conservation work.

Dr. Jenny Harper, professor of biology, and Beth Thornton, assistant professor of biology, organized the trip over a year ago, planning the itinerary with activities contributing to the animals and communities in the area.

During the time spent in Shamwari, the group participated in multiple conservation projects. Each day's expeditions were split in half with different hands-on learning experiences.

The conservation experience included going out on safari rides, tracking native animals such as elephants and lions, performing procedures on animals, experiencing South African culture, learning how to identify and clear invasive species, and cutting down trees. Anniston Hall participated in this conservation experience in Shamwari. "We sat in a classroom multiple times, but we went a step further than that and we were put to work. We had the ability to actually take part in the conservation work that the reserve offers and really got to see a day in



Students on a hill overlooking the Shamwari Conservation. Photo via ABAC Study Abroad Facebook.

the life of what the guides do every single day and the work that the reserve does for conservation," Hall said.

The group also visited Shamwari's Rehab Center where injured animals recover and find asylum. One species of animals at the center was the Cape Vulture. They had been severely injured and were even facing extinction. Students provided

Biodiversity and Animal Behavior and Conservation. The program required a final project based on their work done in Shamwari.

"We were presented with a village that was covered in trash houses with no electricity, no power, no running water and they're not guaranteed food safety," Hall said. "Being grateful for everything we've got and being able to work and interact with those people really helped all of us take away our gratefulness."

Haley Vagelienti participated in this trip as well. She said, "We went to the community to build these cement slabs so these rainwater collectors because that's how these villages get their water."

"They have very corrupt governments over there who don't give them the supplies that they deserve, and basic human rights that are being taken away from them," she continued. "Everyone should have access to water at the end of the day."

These powerful scenes highlight the benefits of study abroad programs overall.

Harper said, "It's so much more than learning about content. It's also learning about yourself and learning about other people—those things you can't necessarily get in the classroom the same way you can when you're immersed in another culture."

See Shamwari, Page 2

Layout &
Design
Excellence

1st Place
Division B

*Campus
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Vol. 116, Issue 9

Students, faculty react to Trump's election win



Campus political groups
express opinions on
election results
Read more on page 2

Charlie Pakluck | CAMPUS CARRIER

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GAMES 12

Community Service: Sports

3rd Place
Division A

The Bell Ringer

Augusta University

The screenshot displays the homepage of 'The Bell Ringer', the student newspaper of Augusta University. The page features a clean, white layout with a dark teal header. At the top center, the logo 'THE BELL RINGER' is accompanied by a bell icon. Below the logo, the text reads 'STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY' and 'All in "Sports"'. On the right side, there are social media icons for Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and a search icon. The main content area is a grid of sports news articles. Each article includes a photo, a date in a black circle, a headline, and a sub-headline. The first article, dated FEB 19, is about Augusta men's basketball. The second, dated FEB 19, is about TSS 7/28. The third, dated FEB 18, is about AU softball. The fourth, dated FEB 18, is about Augusta men's basketball. The page also features a 'SPORTS, PODCAST' section and a 'SPORTS' section.

THE BELL RINGER

STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY
All in "Sports"

Augusta men's basketball suffers setback to Lander; women earn comeback win

FEB 19

SPORTS

The Augusta Jaguars men's basketball team faced a tough loss to Lander, falling 82-67 after trailing by as many as 30 points, while the women's team staged a thrilling 58-53 comeback win on the road...

TSS 7/28: AU athletics, MLB and NCAA men's basketball are heating up

FEB 19

SPORTS, PODCAST

The gang recaps and previews all AU spring sports, along with some MLB and NCAA D1 talk. ...

AU softball swept by Tusculum in doubleheader; Roberts, Moody homer twice

FEB 18

SPORTS

Augusta men stave off pesky Lander, improve to 17-7

FEB 18

SPORTS

Augusta University men's basketball fend off Lander to improve to 17-7. ...

Best Campus Community Service: Sports 2nd Place Division A

The Spectator Valdosta State University

Deurian Simpson
STAFF WRITER
desimpson@valdosta.edu

As the volleyball season progresses, the Lady Blazers led by Coach Kaleigh Zoucha have shown a combination of offensive power and defensive resilience, aiming to secure a prominent position as they move deeper into the end of the season. The Lady Blazers' success this year has been driven by standout performances from several key players. Senior Jojo Smith leads the team's offensive efforts with 243 kills this season, establishing herself as a central figure in their attack. Christina Pettigrew, another key offensive player, has accumulated 224 kills while maintaining a high hitting percentage and defensive at the net with a team-high 59 blocks. Junior Mackenzie Murray, closely following Smith with 234 kills, has added depth to the team's offensive lineup. Defensively, senior Kaia Baker has been instrumental in keeping points alive, recording 424 digs which is the highest in the GSC. Her efforts have helped

the Blazers stay competitive, especially in close games. The team's playmaking has been strengthened by the combined efforts of senior Audrey Bennett, who has 572 assists, and redshirt freshman Avery Mullins, who has contributed 287 assists. Together, they have totaled 859 assists, helping coordinate the team's plays and create opportunities at the net. Junior Katie Callenberger has been a solid presence on the defensive side, recently surpassing 50 blocks for the season. The team's success has not come without its challenges, however. Coach Zoucha and her players have faced strong opposition in recent weeks, which has tested their resilience and adaptability. The Lady Blazers kicked off their recent four-game road trip with a hard-fought five-set battle against Union, emerging victorious on the morning of Oct 25. Later that day, they faced the Lady Bulldogs again, taking them down in four sets, 3-1. Building on this momentum, the blazers continued their winning streak in Memphis, sweeping Christian Brothers in three sets

SPORTS

State of the Blazers

Chris Mercer
SPORTS EDITOR
camercc@valdosta.edu

The second-ranked VSU Blazers head into the bye week with a perfect record. They are 7-0 on the season and 3-0 in the Gulf South Conference play. The Blazers are first in the GSC standings and will remain there going into the bye week. So, what has been the key to

the Blazer's success this season? Well, the offense has been torching the opposing defenses all year.

Senior quarterback Sammy Edwards is very much in the running for the Harlon Hill award this year as he is leading the fifth best offense in all of Division II.

The offense is averaging 43 points per game, while individually Edwards is ranked third nationally among quarterbacks in efficiency while

he also ranked in the top 15 in passing yards with 1,888 and in the top 10 in touchdowns with 18 touchdowns and zero interceptions to go along with four rushing touchdowns.

One of the most significant differences between the offense and last year's team was the playing of the running-back position, as last year's squad did not have a feature back that they depended on.

However, it had a well-

Team looks to maintain perfection as they head towards the playoffs

balanced attack the previous year, as they had two running backs paving the way. One is graduate student Blake Hester, who leads the Blazers in rushing at 476 yards and nine touchdowns this year, while senior running back Alfonso Franklin has been just as explosive as Hester, as he has 286 yards on the ground with six touchdowns.

This year, a staple of the Blazers have been the efforts of the wide receivers, as many of them have had big games to keep the Blazer's offense going. Notably, it has been a big season for graduate student Rodney Bullard, who leads the team in receiving 484 yards and six touchdowns.

Meanwhile, the defense has been stout all year. It has allowed only nine points per game this season. They have also pitched a shutout twice on the season: once in a 34-0 win against the Fayetteville State Broncos and once in a 23-0 game against the Erskine Flying Fleet.

The undisputed defense leader is graduate student Larry Elder, who has been named GSC player of the week four times this season, more than any other player. Overall, the team scored a total of 302 points and only allowed 64

With the Blazers approaching the season's final stretch, they face the best competition of the season; the question is, what is this team's ceiling and can they finish the season on top of a crowded GSC?

On one hand, the GSC has several teams that can make a run in the playoffs. West Alabama, West Florida and Delta State are very much in the race; however, VSU does control its destiny. If they win out, they will secure their first outright Gulf South Conference championship since 2019.

They finish the season on Nov 2 against the Chowan Hawks at home, then go on the road against the Delta State Statesmen on Nov. 9 and then finish the regular season against the West Florida Argonauts for senior day on Nov. 16. As the season reaches the final stretch, the Blazers have an opportunity to achieve perfection.

If they win their last three regular-season games, it be the first time since the Blazers have gone unbeaten since 2019. In a funny coincidence or not, the previous national championship team was also able to go unbeaten to the championship. Let's see if history will favor the side of the Blazers.

Valdosta State Defense running out on to the field Photo courtesy of Ibec Francis



Lady Blazers makes strides as volleyball season progresses

SCHOOL	CONF	CPCT	OVERALL	PCT.
West Florida *	13-0	1,000	18-5	.783
Alabama Huntsville **	12-2	.857	21-3	.875
Mississippi College	10-4	.714	12-10	.545
Valdosta State	9-5	.643	15-9	.625
Lee	8-6	.571	14-12	.538
Tennessee	7-7	.500	10-15	.400
Montevallo	6-8	.429	9-15	.375
Auburn Montgomery	4-9	.308	7-15	.318
Union	4-10	.286	6-17	.261
Christian Brothers	3-11	.214	7-17	.292

Standings in the Gulf South Conference as of October 30 deadline



Kaia Baker serving the ball over the net. Photo courtesy of VSU Athletics

Best Campus
Community
Service:
Sports

1st Place
Division A

*The Red &
Black*

University of
Georgia



p12 Put me in coach
Call the shots with new college
football video game

p20 Football fits
UGA gameday fashion
through the years

PHOTO/LANDEN TODD

Best Campus Community Service: Sports 3rd Place Division B *The Roar* Piedmont University

Fall Sports Update: Previewing Conference Play

By Colin Hacksaw, Staff Writer



Piedmont Home Soccer Field // Credit: Karl Moore

Men's Soccer

Piedmont's men's soccer team opened up its season with nine consecutive out of conference games. These games included dominant wins over Mississippi University for Women (5 0) and Warren Wilson College (6 0), which contributed to their 4 3 2 record. They encountered their first CCS opponent on Sept. 30, after being postponed from Sept. 28, winning a thriller 4 3 over Asbury. The season continues on home turf against Centre College on Oct. 6, followed by one of their final five conference games against LaGrange on Oct. 9. The Lions were ranked number three in the conference preseason poll. They hope to exceed expectations and earn themselves a bye in the tournament. They will either place first or second in the regular season, they will start the tournament in the semi finals on Nov. 2. Otherwise, they will play their first round tournament game on Oct. 30.

Women's Soccer

Piedmont's Women's soccer team has had a roller coaster of a season. Starting with seven non CCS opponents, the Lions were 2 2 3. It is worth noting their first six games got ranked the 39th most challenging schedule in all of Division III. They have opened up their conference play, by winning their first two games by a combined score of 13 0. This start is enough to hold second place in the conference. They trail Maryville, who is also 2 0, but ahead due to their overall record. The Lions have a tough road ahead of them, playing strong conference opponents to finish the season, but they make their case to earn a top two seed and a bye to open up the tournament. They will continue their journey with some Friday night lights action at home on Oct. 4 against Huntingdon College.

Volleyball

Piedmont's volleyball team has struggled early in the season, dealing with some adversity on and off the court. After falling to 0 3 early, only winning one set out of those three games, they announced the departure of eight year head coach Jamie McCormack. The new era of Piedmont volleyball, under interim head coach Jeff Black, is off to a rough start. The Lions are 1 9 overall on the season and 1 2 in conference play. The team only won three sets in their first nine games before sweeping Wesleyan College three sets to none. They had middle of the pack expectations in the preseason poll ranking fourth of nine in the Collegiate Conference of the South. They have 13 conference games left and have some work to do, and they are currently sitting at sixth in the conference. They continue their journey on Saturday, Oct. 5, at home against Covenant at noon and Lagrange at 4:00.

Men's Cross Country

Piedmont's Men's cross country has traveled to two official competitions so far. The first one took place at the University of North Georgia, where they placed second among eight teams. Piedmont took control of some top spots in this meet with a podium finish at third by 5th year, Walker Capelle, who also set a new PR. On top of that, they made up a fifth of the top 20, featuring four Lions in this top range. Next, they traveled to Spartanburg, SC, to compete in the Converse Kickoff, where they finished 14th of 22 teams. It was an outstanding performance considering their competition. Piedmont was the only Division III team in the meet and competed against ranked Division II teams and ranked club teams. They will finish off their season with two more exhibition meets before conferences on Nov. 1st. The team has a ring on their mind, as they were the favorites at the beginning of the season.

Women's Cross Country

Piedmont's Women's cross country team traveled to the University of North Georgia and Spartanburg in their lone two meets. In the UNG meet, the team placed sixth of 11 with a shiny performance from junior Skyler Seeber, who was the only Division III runner to place in the top 10. Due to dealing with multiple injuries, they did not have enough runners for an official placement in the Converse Kickoff. They will have two more meets before the one that matters on Nov. 1st when they head to Belhaven for the conference championship race.

Best Campus Community Service: Sports 2nd Place Division B

The Stallion

Abraham
Baldwin
Agricultural
College

BASKETBALL BRINGS HOME THE GOLD



Chris Foster going for the goal. PHOTOS | KOBE ROSS

Stallions show resilience in recent close victory

TALIA GUTHERIE
Lifestyles Editor

Tifton, GA. - The Stallions showed determination in their latest matchup against the Beacon College Blazers, coming out with a hard-fought victory.

ABAC 88-Beacon College 86
Despite not getting the ball first, the Stallions quickly recovered. Nate Mobley, a 6'9" forward, was a force to be reckoned with on the boards, grabbing key rebounds that set the stage for the team's offensive plays. Tommie Hall seemed to have full-court vision, able to see the entire court from any position, which was crucial in setting up plays and finding open teammates.

The Stallions kept their heads in the game, no matter what challenges they faced. Their hustle and determination were evident, with Chris Foster sinking the first three-pointer of the game. Matthew Mairera took on defenders head-on, earning two free throws in the process.

One of the game's highlights came when T.J. Smith executed an impressive dunk after the Stallions got a steal. This moment invigorated the team and the crowd, showcasing the Stallions' ability to capitalize on defensive plays.

By halftime, the Stallions were up 40-35, maintaining their lead. In the second half the game picked up in intensity, with the Stallions battling the ground running. A fast break led to

T.J. Smith making a layup, setting the tone for the remainder of the half.

T.J. Smith proved to be a well-rounded player who contributed significantly on both ends of the court. Nate Mobley was also a vital defensive player, making a block that prevented an opponent from scoring. The Stallions' teamwork and communication were apparent as they worked in unison to maintain their lead.

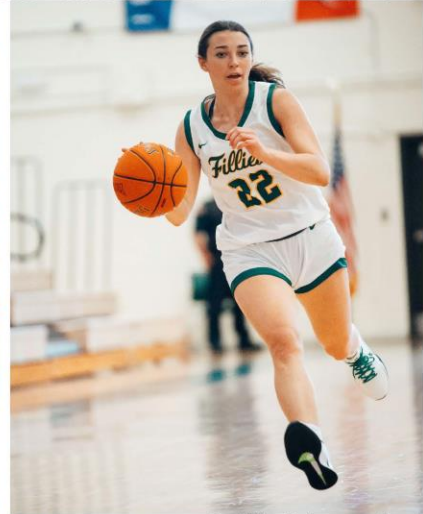
Nate Mobley wasn't afraid to fight his way to the basket. Another steal by the Stallions was when he dunked over two defenders, further solidifying their control of the game.

The Stallion's aggressive defense led to another steal, and Tommie Hall dazzled the crowd by dribbling through three defenders to score a layup. T.J. Smith showed his persistence by getting his own rebound after a missed free throw and drawing another foul, demonstrating the team's relentless effort.

The final score of 88-86 reflected the hard-fought nature of the game and the Stallions' determination to come out on top.

The Stallions' coach, Calvin Sinkfield, reflected on the game, acknowledging the challenges and areas for improvement. "It was a tough one. We've got a lot of things to correct and achieve better execution, but I'm proud of the win," Sinkfield said.

Player T.J. Smith echoed the coach's sentiments. "It was a good, tough win. We had some downs and ups, but we kept our composure and pulled through," he said.



Reese Riddle making her way across the court.

Fillies dominate court during impressive win

TALIA GUTHERIE
Lifestyles Editor

Tifton, GA. - Basketball season is in full swing and the Fillies are dominating the court. The Fillies Faced off against the Beacon College Lady Blazers.

ABAC 75-Beacon College 55
They started strong against Beacon College (Leesburg, FL), finishing the first quarter with a 10-point lead. The team showcased their determination, leaving the opponents struggling to keep up.

The game opened with Kasey Smikes sinking a three-pointer, setting a prominent tone for the Fillies' aggressive play. Analis Hernandez added to the defensive pressure with a critical block early in the second quarter. Despite some questionable calls from the referees, the Fillies maintained composure.

The opponents found themselves repeatedly stopped by the Fillies' effective defense, notably trapping.

Madeline Duncan was able to make a layup despite being closely guarded by two defenders. By the end of the first half, the Fillies were up by 5 points.

The second half began with Shakira Chaney making an uncontested three-pointer, further extending the lead. Faith Hillmon consistently made her free throws, despite a few rough fouls from opponents. Briana Marie Hernandez proved to be a

powerful force in the paint, excelling in rebounding. Faith Hillmon also stood out with her strong offensive plays, and Reese Riddle showed solid all-around skills on both ends of the court.

Emily Gamon displayed her quickness and agility, often stealing the ball from the opponents. The team's coordinated efforts on defense led to several key moments that kept the opposition at bay.

In the end, the Fillies triumphed with a decisive 75-55 victory. Their impressive teamwork and strategy were evident throughout the game.

After the game, the Fillies' coach praised the team's performance. "I'm feeling really good. We played great defense and executed our game plan really, really well. It's all about great execution, and tonight, Reese Riddle and Faith Hillmon truly shone," the coach said.

Player Faith Hillmon, shared her thoughts on the game. "Feeling good," she said. "It was a tough game because I had to lock in on what I had to do, but I'm proud of how we played as a team."

The Fillies' latest win is a testament to their hard work and skills. With such a great performance, they continue to show that they are a force to be reckoned with on the court. Their next home game is November 23 at 12 p.m. against the Point University Skyhawks. To keep up with them, follow their Instagram @abac_wbb.

Best Campus
Community
Service:
Sports
1st Place
Division B
Campus
Carrier
Berry College

Viking soccer teams kick off season, looking for success

Stephen Slezak
asst. sports editor

The soccer season has kicked off as the Vikings look to build on the seasons of last year. In 2023, the women's team ended with a 5-10-1 record while the men's team ended with a 5-7-5 record.

Kathy Brown is back for her fifth season as the head coach of the women's soccer team. Through the previous five seasons, Brown has compiled a record of 31-25-4. Under her guidance, the Vikings finished second in the 2022 Southern Athletic Association (SAA). Berry comes into the season predicted to finish fourth in the SAA Women's soccer preseason poll.

With only a couple weeks between the start of school and the season opener, there is not much time to ease into practice. Preseason training intensifies with scrimmages and practices working to prepare for the season.

"Our preseason was like no other as far as the intensity," Brown said. "We did things we have never done before."

Berry scheduled two preseason scrimmages

this year with the opponents being Mercer University and The University of North Georgia (UNG). Playing schools outside of division three in most sports like soccer is a rare occurrence and one to be noted. Mercer is a division one program while UNG is division two.

"It's an opportunity, not an obstacle," Brown said. "It's a great challenge for us."

The Vikings start off the season with a tough schedule, in hopes that it will prepare the team for conference play later in the season. With 22 returning players, there is valuable veteran experience returning to help guide this year's team.

Our preseason was
like no other as far as
the intensity

Kathy Brown

"We're playing very good teams, and that's intentional," Brown said. "We want to win soccer games. More importantly is how we play soccer."

The Vikings have started off slow with a 0-3-2 record, however there is upside in how the team has

been playing.

"We lost a game to Covenant the other night, we just couldn't score," Brown said. "We're moving the ball; how we're playing the game is really quality."

Berry starts conference play Sept. 28 at Sewanee.

Richard Vardy is back for his 22nd season as the head coach of the men's soccer team. Throughout his previous 21 seasons, Vardy has compiled a record of 254-117-39. Vardy has coached 65 All-SAA selections with three SAA championships coming in 2020, 2014 and 2012. Berry comes into the season predicted to finish fourth in the SAA Men's soccer preseason poll.

With the new additions to the Vikings this year, team chemistry is something that is crucial to be able to communicate with one another on the field. This year's team is veteran led with good depth of players behind the starters.

"The team chemistry is good, everybody is getting along well," Vardy said. "When everyone is fit and healthy, I feel as though we have got a pretty deep team this year. When we start making subs and start going to the bench, I feel as though we do not lose a lot."

The expectations for the Vikings have not changed from previous years. Winning the SAA is an accomplishment that is first on every team's check list at Berry. The most recent SAA championship came back in 2020, with last year the team finishing with a 1-3-3 record in the SAA.

"We always want to win the conference," Vardy said. "Our conference is very competitive. We practice every day as hard as we can and compete in every game we play for 90 minutes against a lot of strong opponents."

Leading the way for the Vikings are a mix of returners and newcomers who look to take back the conference championship. There are 12 newcomers joining the Vikings for the 2024 season mixed in with 15 returners. Five of the newcomers are transfers from Birmingham-Southern, was a member of the SAA, before recently closing down in May of 2024.

"We're got a good group of older players,"

Vardy said. "Tracy Moon, [Pirmin] Blattman, they are both in the MBA program. Dylan Bloch, one of our seniors. Jensen Brown who will hopefully score some goals for us this year. Broek Shultz and Nate Dufin will hopefully have good seasons in the midfield and bring a lot of energy

I feel as though we
have got a pretty deep
team this year

Richard Vardy

to the team."

So far in the beginning of the season, the Vikings have started 0-2-2 with ties to Southwestern and Hardin-Simmons University. Conference play starts Sept. 28 at Sewanee.



Nico Klementzos | CAMPUS CARRIER

Berry prepares to take the field against Southern Virginia University, opening up their first game at home for the season. Junior, Elli Moraitakis moves the ball up the field against Southern Virginia University.

Community Service: Features

3rd Place

The Stallion

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

LIFESTYLES

October 17, 2024 11

Engaged Couple Found Love on Campus

HUNTER HOLTON
Staff Writer

ABAC students Joey Schoonover and Alyssa Sweat are celebrating their recent engagement.

Schoonover first noticed Sweat playing volleyball. It was Sweat's freshman year and Schoonover's sophomore year. They didn't quite know each other yet, but Sweat admired him from afar.

"I never thought Joey would notice me," Sweat said.

After spending time together at ABAC's Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM), they caught each other's eye.

The couple knew they were the ones for each other on a spring break BCM mission trip. Having instantly

connected during the trip, Schoonover asked to be Sweat's boyfriend soon after.

"He's very thoughtful and mature and can balance having a good time and participating in leadership. When he goes to speak, you want to listen to him," said Sweat.

Schoonover went through multiple plans to propose to Sweat. He was anxious as he planned out the proposal with his mother.

The planning for Sweat's birthday party took place two or three months before. Schoonover wanted to take the chivalric approach and get Sweat's mother's blessing.

"As we got closer, I thought I could talk to her the night before. I ended up not being able to. Then I talked to them that morning at Hog-N-Bones. I will never forget it because they told me afterward that they were expecting it. But I asked [her] mom if I could do it today, and then she responded, 'Today?'"

Sweat was completely surprised as she thought they were just taking pictures at their friend's house. They were going through different shots and positions for the pictures when the photographer asked Sweat to pose for some single photos of her looking off into the trees. She stood there for nearly five minutes while Schoonover got the ring.

"I thought, oh, nothing's happening. How could I be so gullible? But, I'm glad I was," Sweat said. She gave her perspective as a woman seeing online videos of people getting proposed to and adoring them, calling them "delicate."

Sweat's world stood still during her special moment.



Love blossoms on the ABAC campus and leads to lifelong commitment.

"I said, 'Actually, right now?' Not in a bad way, it was very serial. I thought, 'Say yes!'" said Sweat. "I wasn't expecting it at all, but it was a great experience."

They cherish the fact that their relationship has brought them full circle to where it all started for them. The ceremony will be held at ABAC's chapel and the reception at the Peanut Museum at the GMA.

During this interview, the love between Schoonover and Sweat was infectious. Their love and admiration of one another was on full display with each flash of Sweat's smile whenever she talked about her fiancé.

Schoonover and Sweat's engagement shows that anyone can find love here at ABAC—all it takes is time and patience.



Sweat's engagement ring.



Sweat shows off the ring after the surprise proposal.

PHOTOS | TOWNS ETHREDGE

Best Campus Community Service: Features 2nd Place Campus Carrier Berry College

Berry scary ghost stories to tell in the dark

Abigail Dunagan
features editor
Cammie Wilks
asst. features editor

As the leaves begin to change colors and the weather starts to cool down, the month of October marks the beginning of the fall season. October is a time to watch classic horror films and tell scary stories around the fireplace to set the mood for the Halloween season. While most people dismiss these stories as made-up myths, Berry College has its own share of ghost stories that are said to be true. These stories originate in some of the campus' oldest buildings, with ghost sightings being reported back 50 years.

One of Berry's most well-known ghost stories is the tale of the Green Lady. She is said to haunt Lavender Mountain Road, the road leading to Mountain Campus. This road is commonly referred to as "Stretch Road" by students.

As with all ghost stories, different versions of the story exist depending on who is telling it. One account claimed that she is the spirit of Berry student Lindsey Elizabeth Will, who tragically passed away in 1987 in a bicycle accident on Stretch Road. Her boyfriend rode ahead of her on the trail, but when he turned around to look for her it was too dark to see. While driving back down the path, the couple suffered a severe bike crash, with Will sustaining fatal head injuries. This tale is generally the most accepted account of the story, although there are a few different versions of this story. Some believe that Will and her boyfriend were driving down Stretch Road in a car when they got into a heated argument. Will asked to be let out of the vehicle, and on the way back her boyfriend lost control of the car and crashed into her.

Another account from the Campus Carrier archives reports that the Green Lady was a woman who passed away in 1923 in a housefire near Stretch Road. A third, uncommon account claims that she is the spirit of a girl who killed herself near Stretch Road by carbon monoxide poisoning in the winter of 1987.

Although the versions of exactly who this mysterious figure is differ across sources, they seem to come to the same conclusion about the spirit herself: she is always spotted along Stretch Road and is seen wearing a tattered green dress and a bonnet around her neck. Some say that her eyes have rotted away, leaving two gaping holes in the place of her eye sockets. She can take the form of a green cloud of smoke, and she sometimes appears directly in front of cars driving down the road at night.

According to rumors, the Green Lady can be summoned while driving down Stretch Road at night. If her name is repeated three times, her face will appear in the rear-view mirror of the vehicle.

The Hoge building is one of Berry's oldest, dating all the way back to 1905 when it was constructed by students for classrooms. It once served as Martha Berry's office and the administration hall. With such an extensive history, this old building has been subject to many ghost sightings over the years.

There are many stories about Hoge, and it is reportedly of the most haunted locations on campus. In one story, an employee came in the Hoge building at night, and she saw a transparent-looking man dressed as a confederate soldier. When he went up the stairs, she followed him to find there was no one there. In another story, which was found in the Campus

Carrier archives, past students reported that their things kept moving around in the music studios of Hoge. Additionally, students could hear voices around the building, even if no one else was present.

Perhaps the most chilling tale to come from Hoge is a famous story about a professor and her daughter. A professor had come to Hoge with her child, while she was working, she heard her daughter having a conversation. When the professor went to see who her daughter was talking to, she saw that no one was there. When asked who she was talking to, her daughter replied that she spoke to "a nice lady with cold hands." Perplexed, the professor took her daughter home. Days later, when she brought her to campus, her daughter saw a picture of Martha Berry in Krannert and claimed that it was the lady she met.

Home to some of the most common ghost stories is Oak Hill. Being built in the 1880's, it was home to the Berry Family. Although it now serves as a museum, there are multiple reports of ghost sightings on the grounds. Students who have worked and entered the home have claimed that there are multiple ghosts haunting the house. One of the kinder ghosts lingering around the home is believed to be Martha Freeman, the Berry family's housekeeper who died in 1951. Students in the past have reported smelling different baking ingredients in the kitchen of the house, such as cinnamon, ginger and peanut butter. One day, students were hunting for a certain book in Oak Hill's library, and the book they were searching for happened to fall off the shelf right in front of them. Finally, the grounds team of Oak Hill were once trimming shrubs and heard the sound of dishes being washed from the house's kitchen. Upon investigation, however, no one was found in the kitchen.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BERRY COLLEGE DIGITAL ARCHIVES

These images show the inside and outside of the Hoge Building, which served as the administrative building and Martha Berry's personal office for several years. The building has been the location of several ghost sightings over the past 70 years.

Best Campus Community Service: Features 1st Place

The Red & Black University of Georgia



Lisa Beasley poses for a portrait in front of Black-Dialo-Miller Hall in Athens, Georgia on Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2024. PHOTO: JESSE WOOD

The GA Mom

A mom when you're away from home

Jesse Wood

Studying in college and moving away from home can be a scary leap of faith for not only students, but also their parents and guardians as well.

The University of Georgia's graduating class of 2024 is comprised of about 20% out-of-state students, originating from 49 states and Washington D.C., out of the over 35,000 total adults, according to a report published by UGA Student Affairs.

Bethie Beckler, a mom of two from Austin, Texas, was worried about the distance between herself and her daughters when her eldest enrolled at UGA in 2019, and her younger daughter followed in her footsteps three years later.

With Beckler living in Texas, she knew her eldest daughter would need someone to help her assemble furniture when she began moving into a house of her own in 2021. That was when she found Lisa Beasley, The GA Mom, in a Facebook group for UGA parents.

Beasley identified herself as a college oncologist, offering local help to students at UGA who are far from home. Since then, Beckler developed a relationship with Beasley and turned to her for miscellaneous tasks that she could not complete because of the distance.

"But being that we're not close (to Athens) and can't get there quick, it's really nice to have Bethie in Athens that could go and help," Beckler said.

In 2021, Beasley quit teaching elementary school after 21 years and was unsure of her next steps. Around the same time, her son was enrolled in college four and a half hours away at Carson-Newman University in Tennessee.

"It's my secret kid," Beasley said. "It was just little stuff not necessarily an emergency or anything — I just kept thinking, 'Man, if I had a mom I could call and ask to help — that would be so awesome.'"

Beasley began her new career path and launched her business, The GA Mom, in the beginning. Beasley said that she wasn't sure if there was a need for her services in Athens, but she also began to understand the needs of UGA students, her popularity grew.

Most of Beasley's business comes from social media and word of mouth among UGA parents, which is exactly how Beth Josephs, a mom from Austin, Texas, whose daughter is currently a junior at UGA, found The GA Mom. "When I first heard about her, I was like, 'Who is that? She just does everything,'" Josephs said. "It's rare because I'm so far away, to know that someone's there."

When Josephs' daughter's birthday rolled around in September 2022 during her freshman year at UGA, Josephs turned to Beasley to send her daughter goodies to celebrate. From there, she continued to hire Beasley for other things, including moving her daughter out of an apartment in 2023.

"[Beasley] is very down to earth," Josephs said. "It's what you want in someone who's doing different errands

or things for your kid because she's a mom."

Beasley's business has grown to offer many helpful services for college students, including meal deliveries, themed care packages, laundry services and everything in between.

“ [Beasley] is very down to earth. She's what you want in someone who's doing different errands or things for your kids because she's a mom.

BETH JOSEPHS | MOM

In total, Beasley estimates that she averages about 400 care packages and meals per semester. Beasley's operations require her to spend almost the whole day cooking, packaging and delivering everything. "I will do anything that I can possibly do to help kids [whose] parents are away," Beasley said.

Upcoming Events

1. A Magical Cirque Christmas

WHAT: The Circus Center will host world class entertainers performing to classic holiday music on Friday, Nov. 15. The evening event will be filled with nostalgia, charm and awe inspiring performances for all ages, according to The Circus Center website.

WHEN: Friday, Nov. 15 at 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: The Circus Center Theatre

PRICE: \$20 to \$74

2. Winter WonderLights

WHAT: Beginning on Nov. 24, the Winter WonderLights will return to the State Botanical Garden of Georgia for the fourth year. Illuminating the grounds with a variety of holiday-themed lights, the wonderland will include a Winter Wreathroom, Light-Bell Lane, Ice-Born Lights, Frosted Forest and more.

WHEN: Nov. 24 through Dec. 30

WHERE: State Botanical Garden of Georgia

PRICE: Tickets are \$15 each, children ages 3 and under will be free

3. Hugh Hodgson Annual Holiday Concert

WHAT: A yearly tradition at the Hugh Hodgson School of Music returns to the University of Georgia on Thursday, Nov. 21, and Friday, Nov. 22. Usually the concert is held a week after Thanksgiving to give the holiday season, but since Thanksgiving falls late in the academic calendar, the concert will take place the week before Thanksgiving. The musicians will be performing "Gloria Cantata" by 84 Beethoven in being memory of Dolly Bebeau.

WHEN: Thursday, Nov. 21 and Friday, Nov. 22 from 7:30-9:30 p.m.

WHERE: Hodgson Concert Hall at the USA Performing Arts Center

PRICE: \$10 for children and students, \$25 for adults



A group of attendees walk through a path lit by series of colorful tree lights during the Winter WonderLights light show at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia in Athens, Georgia on Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2023. PHOTO: FELIX SCHUBERT

4. Thanksgiving Feed the Hungry Event

WHAT: Great South Services will host its Thanksgiving Feed the Hungry Community Event at The Spawna's Inn. The event provides members of the community with access to a meal and free hygiene products on Thanksgiving. Donations of hygiene products are accepted at the ACC Library and Butler Chapel Church until Nov. 21. Contact us at 706.426.4262 or www.greatsouthservices.org for more information about donation items.

WHEN: Wednesday, Nov. 27 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

WHERE: The Spawna's Inn

PRICE: Free, donations encouraged

5. Beechwood Shopping Center Holiday Tree Lighting

WHAT: The Annual Holiday Tree Lighting at the Beechwood Shopping Center will be held on Saturday, Nov. 30, from 6-8 p.m. The event will be complete with food trucks, music, face painting, Santa's helpers, games and more. The event will be perfect for all ages to ring in the holiday season.

WHEN: Friday, Nov. 30 from 6-8 p.m.

WHERE: Beechwood Shopping Center

PRICE: Free

-Jesse Wood

Best Campus Community Service: Editorial Excellence 3rd Place The Spectator Valdosta State University

News

Report: police chief violated policies Alcohol, false reports, ethics violations among sustained charges in case

Jenna Arnold
Ennis-In-Cauf
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The former police chief of VSU was found to have consumed alcohol while on duty, falsified reports and committed other offensive acts during his term, according to an investigative report released earlier this month.

A third-party investigation of former Chief Alan Rowe proved multiple allegations to be sustained. According to the report, he denies or disputes all the findings. Rowe resigned his position on Oct. 9, 2024, over a year after an incident happened on Oct. 7, 2023.

A report had been made to a Hotline Report system when Rowe was seen consuming alcohol during a tailgate for the Delta State vs. VSU football game on Oct. 7. One officer said that he had smelled alcohol on him and was told to leave the scene and to not share information about the incident.

Rowe had worn a police-themed t-shirt and was using a state vehicle throughout the evening. The Deputy University PD, J. Clay Gracen, conducted the investigation into his case and stated that he arrived in a state vehicle and left in his state vehicle after the game. He used the vehicle to escort the football team with the lights and sirens activated.

Rowe had reported his vehicle missing during the game because he thought it was stolen. The

vehicle was found later that evening. He reportedly told investigator Chris McBride that he had been consuming alcohol during the tailgate.

There was sufficient evidence to prove that the allegation of consuming alcohol and a violation of the VSU PD policy on possession and use of alcohol had been found sustained.

In his rebuttal, from the findings, Rowe denies the situation completely. "The complaints were baseless and malicious, founded on rumor and assumption," said Rowe.

"With regard to the allegation that I consumed alcohol while on duty, those allegations are false."

There was sufficient evidence that he falsely signed off on two training rosters, Ethics and Critical Incident, which prove that the VSU PD follow certain standards during their certification reassessment. He had reportedly never attended ethics training session. This allegation was found sustained.

These training classes are mandatory for all VSU PD officers, and the rosters are State Government documents.

"(He) viewed his signature and confirmed they were his, as well as confirmed he was not present during the classes," said Gracen. However, Rowe denied the falsification of documents.

"There was no intent to imply I attended the in-person course, only to document the training had been received," said Rowe in his rebuttal. "I made this mistake clearly out of expediency, with no motive to mislead the state

certification assessors." Allegations that Rowe withheld information relating to Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC) misuse and failure to report GCIC violations were also found sustained.

There was sufficient evidence to prove Rowe had withheld information from the Director of GCIC, Rhonda Westbrook, by submitting a letter that contained less violations than what occurred. He also failed to report misuse by an officer on staff with the VPD.

Rowe denied these claims also. "There is no evidence to support the charge that I knowingly and willfully falsified, concealed or covered up and fact or document in violation of OCGA 16-10-20," said Rowe.

All the following allegations were found to be sustained: falsifying documents to retain State Certification, falsifying information relating to GCIC misuse, failure to accurately report GCIC violations, Violation of Oath by public officer, statements of core values, code of conduct, ethics policy, VSU PD manual, false statements and writings, concealment of facts and fraudulent documents in matters within jurisdiction of state or Political subdivision.

There is one allegation to be partially sustained, engaging in retaliatory and discriminating behaviors.

There is sufficient evidence to prove that Rowe engaged in discriminatory behavior while on duty. However, there is insufficient evidence to prove

that he engaged in retaliatory behavior.

Gracen had an interview with an anonymous source who confirmed being present and listening to Rowe make remarks to themselves and others that were discriminatory.

"I am unable to provide a context to any allegation of disparaging or racial remarks," said Rowe in his rebuttal. "Given the information available to me, I firmly deny any allegations of those type of comments being made."

The Spectator reached out to Rowe, but he made no comment.

Based on the investigation

report, Rowe had committed violations against the Georgia Code, B OR policy, HRPAP and the VSU policies.

Captain Bryant Leverett has been serving as the interim director since the summer. Deputy Chief Dennis Dorsey from the University of North Georgia will take over the position until a permanent police chief is found.

There will be an on-campus interview process where a public presentation of the candidate's explanation as to why they would be an excellent chief of police will be presented. The VSU community is able to attend the event and ask questions.

October 9, 2024

Jeanne Boddie-LaVan
Chief Human Resources Officer
Valdosta State University
1500 North Patterson Street
Valdosta, Georgia, 31698

Ms. Boddie-LaVan

I, Charles Alan Rowe, voluntarily resign my position as Chief of Police for Valdosta State University effective immediately.

Respectfully,



C. Alan Rowe

Former Police Chief Alan Rowe's resignation letter.

Courtesy of VSU.

Donald Trump wins election 312-226

Former President Donald Trump has won the 2024 election cycle in a 69-point lead and a concession by Vice President Kamala Harris. The lead was determined by Trump gaining the support of key swing states. He won Georgia by 50.7%, as per the Associated Press statistic. Wisconsin was won over by 49.7%, Michigan by 49.8% and Pennsylvania by 50.8%. His win can largely be attributed to the uncertainty of the Democratic Party after President Joe Biden announced that he was

no longer running for re-election, instead endorsing Vice President Kamala Harris as presidential candidate. Before exiting the race, his approval rate was 37%, according to CNNBC. This has caused uncertainty and fear among many voters, sparking worry about the future of America under Trump's second term. Trump had allegedly emboldened followers into an attempted insurrection following his loss to Biden on Jan. 6, 2021 and fears have amassed over violence to follow.

Bailey Wilson
Managing Editor
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There is also worry due to Trump being convicted for 34 felony counts of falsifying records, all of which he was found guilty of by the jury, according to BBC. His court case will be held on Nov. 26.

It is uncertain whether legal action will complicate the election, but as of now, Trump will be sworn in on Jan. 20, 2025 and is expected to be in office until 2028.

Two dead after shooting on Halloween night

Bailey Wilson
Managing Editor
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Two men were killed and one hospitalized in a shooting outside of a bar in Remerton on Friday, Nov. 1.

An argument began outside of a bar on

Halloween night, which escalated into a shootout, according to a statement made by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. Four off-duty deputies for Lowndes County Sheriff's Office were present on the scene when shots began, and law enforcement was called to assist. Right after this incident,

more shots were heard, causing two more deputies to intervene, according to the Valdosta Daily Times.

Two civilians died in the incident and one of the deputies was injured, but a bulletproof vest prevented further damage. Neither of the victims were VSU students.

"One of my friends told me to duck. I asked why and she said there were gunshots," James Lovett, a VSU student and witness said. "I saw an officer get shot, then I witnessed the culprit get shot in the head. Then I ran to the car and got back home and made phone calls to all my fraternity

brothers and little sisters who were with me at the bar. It was very scary and I don't plan on ever going back there."

Weapons were found on the scene that are connected to the shooting and further information will be released once more is known.

This shooting happened almost a year after Brianna Long, a senior dental hygiene major at VSU, was killed after being caught in the crossfire of a shootout at Flip Flops nightclub on Oct. 29, 2023. Her case remains unsolved, and GB is still searching for information related to her death.

Best Campus Community Service: Editorial Excellence 2nd Place Campus Carrier Berry College

Our view: Abolish Greek life for a safer future for college students

There are 750,000 undergraduate members in 12,000 fraternity and sorority chapters on more than 800 campuses in the United States and Canada according to data provided by the University of New Mexico. Greek life consists of fraternities and sororities, undergraduate organizations designed to foster personal growth and development through mentorship from older members. These groups emphasize values such as service, sisterhood and brotherhood, all while providing support throughout college and even after graduation. While Greek life may appear beneficial on the surface, it often faces significant challenges at its core.

Many of these organizations are associated with schools labeled as "party schools," largely because Greek life frequently serves as the foundation for large social gatherings and parties on these campuses. Centered around social activities are of alcohol and substance abuse among younger members after being introduced to those substances by older members. According to the staff of BestColleges, "fraternities and sororities are often associated with hazing and alcohol abuse." These organizations gather a reputation for irresponsibility, which is supported by accidents involving property damage and drunk driving, among more serious incidents like deaths from hazing.

In contrast, schools like Berry, which do not have fraternities or sororities, tend to foster a calmer campus environment. The absence of frequent parties reduces the presence of alcohol on campus, allowing students to focus more on their academic and career goals.

In addition, Greek life has a troubling association with higher rates of sexual assault. Kara Emsley writes for Our Wave, an organization that focuses on empowering survivors of sexual harm. In her article on sexual assault trends within

Greek life, she notes that men are more likely to experience assault in these environments. Along with that, women in sororities are 74% more likely to be raped compared to women not affiliated with sororities. Beyond this, Greek life is often criticized for being exclusive and lacking diversity. Membership often depends on connections, as prospective members need to "know someone" to gain acceptance.

Another problem that arises in relation to Greek life is rushing. Rushing is the process that potential Greek life members go through to join a sorority or fraternity. This process is highly selective. It

begins with students ranking their preferred groups while fraternities and sororities rank prospective members in return after only a week's worth of interviews. This can create a sense of competition among these women and men. As the State Press at Arizona State University

says, "a program with a genuine sense of 'sisterhood' would not place certain women at higher values than others." These organizations are also frequently criticized for lacking racial and socioeconomic diversity, with membership predominantly composed of white men and women from higher-income backgrounds. This culture has led many to associate Greek life with issues of sexual assault, racism and classism.

Another minor problem with Greek life include the significant time commitment, which many college students may struggle to balance. Custom College states, "Greek life can be time-consuming, with mandatory meetings, events and other obligations that may conflict with academic or

personal responsibilities." Additionally, the financial burden is considerable, with sororities and fraternities often costing students between \$200 and \$1,000 per semester, according to the College Benefits Research Group. Members who miss just one event can face fines ranging from \$600 to \$1,000, as reported by the State Press.

Recently, students involved in Greek life have begun sharing their experiences and calling for the abolition of these organizations. The "abolish Greek life" movement has gained a following, highlighting concerns about exclusivity, classism, and other systemic issues.

While Greek life promotes close bonds among its members, there are many alternative ways to build meaningful connections in college. Students can join clubs, participate in intramural sports or talk with peers in their classes.

Fortunately, Berry does not have Greek life, which was a deciding factor in choosing the school for many students. Berry thrives without these organizations, proving that colleges can foster community and engagement without the reputational risks associated with Greek life. For these organizations to become more inclusive, less classist and less harmful, they should prioritize funding diversity training and actively work to admit members from diverse backgrounds. However, the persistent issues harmful behaviors tied to Greek life suggest that changing the system may not be enough.

Colleges should consider abolishing Greek life altogether and investing in alternative ways to build campus community. As shown by schools like Berry, thriving without fraternities and sororities is not only possible but also beneficial, fostering a safer and more inclusive environment for all students.

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

Women in sororities are 74 percent more likely to be raped compared to women not affiliated with sororities

Colleges should consider abolishing Greek life altogether and investing in alternative ways to build campus

This week's instagram poll:

Which Campus Carrier member are you?



Follow @campuscarrier on Instagram to vote in the weekly poll!



Best Campus Community Service: Editorial Excellence 1st Place

The Red & Black University of Georgia



OPINION

Morbid Curiosity?

Navigating the line between fascination and respect in true crime media

Gabriele Gruszynski

I have a morning routine. After hitting the snooze button a few times, I'll reach for my phone and open a podcast. Some days, I'll hit the snooze for Alex Cooper's "Call Her Daddy." However, other mornings I'll hit the snooze for something riveting and informative. One Podcast and Newsroom's "Serial Killers" podcast has become a staple.

After the murder of a fellow student, my roommate last semester, I have taken a much greater interest in the true crime genre. I believe in part I'm trying to understand why some individuals commit heinous acts they do so in learning how to protect myself from those types of situations.

There's such a delicate balance between raising awareness and creating fear-mongering. The challenge lies in creating content that empowers the mass public, yet remains sensitive to those affected and their loved ones.

STUDENT VOICES

UGA parking

A logistical nightmare

by Baugher

Parking at the University of Georgia gets intense. With over 2,000 new transfer students and a freshman class of over 6,000 students, UGA's campus is packed. Finding a parking spot can require an awful lot of ingenuity. Many students were left without a parking spot on campus after permits came out in July. For reason, this inconvenience has impacted class attendance and raised safety concerns. Others received a spot but were forced to make extended trips to get to class or were frustrated at the lack of parking payoff for their senior status. Overall, students are frustrated with the absence of parking spaces on campus.

The Red & Black asked students about their experience with parking at UGA.



Lily Morris

SENIOR COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

"It definitely felt like I'm getting the short end of the stick as a senior. I don't know why I get stuck with The Red & Black. I called, I emailed. I did everything I could but they said that's all we can offer you," Morris said.

Asim Khimani

JUNIOR MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS MAJOR

"There's some parking behind Hill deck. It's like a line of people. There's no guarantee of getting parking there." Khimani said. "So I usually go to class on my own but just going in circles trying to get that parking."



Kaia Shue

FRESHMAN HISTORY MAJOR

"My family friend found me a spot at the Marshfield gas station," Kaia said. "You need to go there at night, but it's not too bad. I always walk with friends, though."

Naureen Kakhani

JUNIOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS MAJOR

"I've definitely skipped class because I couldn't get to campus," Kakhani said. She described the student's "get up" as "unbearable" and "rampaged."

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As a student-run news organization with the mission of creating journalism, we know that mistakes happen and we strive to correct them as quickly as possible. If you spot a factual error, please let us know by emailing corrections@redandblack.com. Corrections that are published will be the most possible print issue.

Corrections for online-only articles are posted at redandblack.com on the day of the error. If the 433-3003 staff is unable to verify the information in the Athens-Clarke County Press website, we regret this and we will do our best to correct any errors to accurately reflect our reporting standards.

Best Campus Community Service: News 3rd Place The Stallion Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College



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P. 14 2024 Agricultural Education Cohort Profile

Thursday
October 17, 2024

The Stallion

Volume 72 Issue 04

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

www.abacstallion.com

Walk to End Alzheimer's Visits Tifton Community Raises Awareness For a Cause

ANTHONY BAIDEN
Staff Writer

Held in downtown Tifton, several volunteers showed up to support the annual Walk to End Alzheimer's, with the hope of bringing Alzheimer's to an end.

According to Chrystal Bell an employee for the Alzheimer's Association, "The Walk to End Alzheimer's is the largest fundraiser for the Alzheimer's Association. We provide care support, education services, research and advocacy on the behalf of those living with Alzheimer's or other dementia and their caregivers and families. The Walk to End Alzheimer's helps us fund our initiatives to help those facing this terrible disease."

Partnering with the Alzheimer's Association to hold the event, Edward Jones, a financial service firm, raised over \$45 million, roughly 50% of which came from the 115,000 associates at the firm.

The committee responsible for the walk was Derek with Belmont; Gina Miller with Country Financial; Amanda Brack with Quality Employment; Kim Blackstock with Regency Southern Care Hospice; Mallory Thompson with Tradition Help; Evangelita Hampton with Abide Home Care, and Bell.

Each of them came from a different line of work but came together to help make the walk happen. Other volunteers who came out to help as well were the Titilarea Auto Club, Mason Grant and Future Farmers of America (FFA), Steve Grodman and Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), Jenna Williams and the ABAC Ambassadors, and Madison Fogel and WALB-TV.

Coca-Cola and Charlie Yawn helped provide the drinks, and Country Financial helped provide coffee.

See Alzheimers, Page 4



Participants enjoyed the walk for a cause. PHOTO | ANSELIE JAMES

Student Crowned Miss Fiesta del Pueblo

ANLEE JAMES
Editor in Chief

Fulwood Park received a taste of Hispanic culture at the 26th La Fiesta del Pueblo festival, the largest cultural festival in South Georgia. The festival showcased Hispanic traditions through music, food, dance, and many other cultural aspects. The event is organized by the Fiesta del Pueblo Committee.

Miss Fiesta del Pueblo

Prior to the festival, the committee hosted the Miss Fiesta del Pueblo pageant.



Lionela Gutierrez wearing her regalia.

Lionela Gutierrez was crowned Miss Fiesta del Pueblo 2024.

"Being crowned as Miss Fiesta is something meaningful because I get to represent my community in a unique way," Gutierrez said. "It is an honor to not only be a representative of Fiesta del Pueblo, but to use my platform that I have gained to spread awareness on things that matter in our community."

Gutierrez is a third year at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC), and she is double majoring in history and government and writing and communication. She is heavily involved in the Tifton community by working as a dispatcher for the Georgia Forestry Commission.

Her ABAC involvement includes being the president and co-founder of the Judiciary Law Club and a Stallion Society Orientation Leader. She also served as the School of Arts and Sciences Senator of the Student Government Association. After she graduates from ABAC, Gutierrez plans to go into the Peace Corps to help those in need before eventually going to law school to pursue a career in international relations.

Gutierrez said, "My favorite part [of the pageant] is meeting new people and developing relationships with all of the girls who participated in the pageant. I feel as if I got to learn something unique about every person, and I used that to help me grow into the person I want to be."

Victoria Garcia was the first runner-up, and Wendy Gomez was the second runner-up. Among the other contestants were



Marca Distinta played lively music. PHOTOS | KOBIE ROSS

Michelle Barrios, Giana Calvillo Menjivar, Vanessa Rose Ortiz, and Evelyn Hernandez. Janyra Garcia, Miss Fiesta del Pueblo 2023, had a busy reign with appearances, such as assisting with the summer reading kickoff at the Tift County Public Library and being in the Tift County Christmas parade. She also attended an art gallery for Hispanic Heritage Month.

"The goal [of the festival] is to share our roots with others and to show our authenticity, to allow others to see the beauty that lies within our culture from the food, clothing, jewelry, music and even dances," Garcia said.

The pageant consisted of a group interview appearance, one-on-one interview with judges, cultural wear, formal wear, and the top three contestants had to answer an on-stage question. Marca Distinta, a local band, performed at the pageant to bring a lively intermission.

See Fiesta, Page 3



Contestants competed in cultural wear.

Best Campus Community Service: News 2nd Place The Spectator Valdosta State University

VSU police chief re-signs from position

Jenna Arnold
Editor-In-Chief
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Former VSU Police Chief Alan Rowe voluntarily resigned his position earlier this month.

Rowe had been placed on paid administrative leave, according to the university.

VSU announced that a "third-party review is underway." No information is available as to why he was placed on leave.

Captain Bryant Leverett is serving as the interim director while the search for a replacement continues. Leverett was a police captain at Augusta University, according to his LinkedIn profile.

Rowe had served as chief of police in Pavo, Georgia, when he was 28. He first joined VSU in 2015 as the emergency management coordinator. He officially began serving as chief of police in 2017 after serving as the interim director of public safety and chief of police.

He later was sworn in as the 60th president of the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police.

There is no timeframe for when the new chief will be appointed.

A search committee will be announced to assist in the hiring of VSU's next police chief, according to the

university. The committee will consist of VSU and the University System of Georgia staff members. They will review applications and oversee reference checks.

There will be an on-campus interview process where a public presentation of the candidate's background and an explanation as to why they would be an excellent chief of police will be presented.

Students, faculty and staff are allowed to attend the event and ask the candidates questions.

President Dr. Richard Carvajal, the Department of Public Safety and the Finance and Administrative staff will also meet with the candidates when they're on campus.

The director of public safety position reports to the vice president for finance and administration at VSU, Trisce Martin.

"The Director of Public Safety is an incredibly important position," said Martin.

"We are looking for someone with a strong background in law enforcement and leadership. This position requires someone who likes being involved on campus and recognizes that nothing is more important than the safety of our students, faculty, and staff."

News

Groundbreaking celebration for \$36.5 million PAC investment



State officials and VSU administrators (and Blaze) break the ground on the new Performing Arts Center.

Jenna Arnold
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The official groundbreaking for VSU's new \$36.5 million performing arts center was celebrated on Friday, Oct. 25. It will be the 43,128 square foot home for theatre and dance programs.

State officials, VSU President Richard Carvajal and others picked up shovels and tossed dirt in the air signifying the marking of history.

The new performing arts center will be the official musical theatre of the State of Georgia, attracting tourism and further strengthening the musical and theatre programs at VSU. The theatre plans to open in Spring 2026.

It is being constructed near the intersection of Northside Drive and Ashley Street, near North Campus.

Dr. Carvajal explained the necessity for a new theatre, as the old one was outdated.

"We had a theater that was dated," said Dr. Carvajal. "It didn't have the technology needed to offer the kind of shows that the caliber of the actor was ready to deliver."

He believes that it will attract and increase tourism to shows and concerts.

"Imagine with me, if you will, the number of tour buses that will drive

down Ashley Street and drive into this parking lot, and they will come and they will stay here," said Dr. Carvajal. "They will stay in our hotels, they will eat in our restaurants, they will go out to Wild Adventures and they will play our championship golf courses."

The Master of Ceremonies and Associate Professor of Theatre Voice and Acting, Ian Anderson, led the event.

"This will become an artist beacon for all of the communities in the South Georgia Region," said Anderson. "We are here today to entice this community to invest in this community and to grow with this community."

Numerous organizations came together to make this dream a reality. The Georgia's Board of Regents, the university system of Georgia's Office of Real Estate and Facilities, the Georgia State Financing and Investment, the VSU Foundation Board of Trustees, the VSU Alumni Association Board, the Peach State Summer Theatre Board and others joined together to support the funding for the new theatre.

Government officials also joined together to support the theatre's workings. State Representative John LaFlood, Representative John Corbett, Representative Davor Sharpner, Senator Russ Goodman and Jodi Redding, the Director of Office of Gov. Brian Kemp,

joined in the groundbreaking. Blake Pearce, of Academic Affairs and University Advancement, made remarks explaining the difficulties of planning for such a large project.

"This has been a long and arduous process," said Pearce. "We've navigated a global pandemic, a global supply chain shortage, a skilled labor shortage, unprecedented inflationary costs, countless revision sessions, design planning projects, and budget reviews."

He then shared his vision for the future once the building is completed.

"It's going to become a destination for local, regional and national visitors experiencing our performances," he said. "This building will serve generations of students, introducing them to contemporary practices within their respective fields of study."

Chancellor Sonny Purdie supported the construction of the theatre and spoke at the event.

"I look forward to coming back, my wife and I, and enjoying one of those performances that this great school of arts will put on as we go forward and see what can happen. Part of a great education, well-rounded, for many types of disciplines here that students from across the state, across the country, are enjoying here at Valdosta State University."

VSU ranked 408 in Wall Street Journal's Best U.S. Colleges of 2025 List

Armonie' Gates
Staff Reporter
angates@valdosta.edu

VSU finished 408th out of 500 colleges within America in the Wall Street Journal's annual ranking of the best colleges, down from 319th

in the previous year.

The Journal analyzes a variety of statistics, including salary impact, graduation rate, learning environment, career opportunities and others, in order to conduct its ranking of the best U.S. colleges each year.

This year, most of the colleges on the list are a wide variety of institutions that include private, public, technical and liberal arts.

However, this year public and tech or business schools were at the top of the list by far as being ranked the best college programs of 2025.

The colleges that were ranked in the top five included Princeton University, Babson College, Stanford University, Yale University and Claremont McKenna College.

Though VSU stands ranked at 408 in the overall rankings, it was ranked higher in many other categories

that were analyzed by the Journal. VSU was ranked No. 70 in student experience, No. 355 in best salary, No. 105 in social mobility and No. 244 in best value.

Out of the 16 Georgia colleges surveyed in the Journal, VSU was placed at No. 11, just above Mercer University and just below Morehouse College. The top four colleges from Georgia were Georgia Tech, Emory University, University of Georgia and Spelman College.

Many students have expressed their thoughts and opinions on VSU's school ranking.

"I'm kind of disappointed because I feel like our school should have been ranked higher," said Shavey Sikes, a sophomore mass media major from Warner Robins, Georgia. "This school is a great place to learn more about yourself and career path."

Sikes thought diversity was a strength within VSU campus.

"The fact that we were ranked 78 out of 500 for most diverse university shows that our institution is built upon a community of students from diverse backgrounds who are navigating the world around them," said Sikes.

Some students expressed ways for VSU to achieve a

higher ranking.

"VSU should try to expand its waived SAT policy throughout Georgia and the country," said Ashley Ehrhardt, a sophomore mass media major from Dawson, Georgia. "Most schools don't waive it and students tend to apply for schools that don't ask for those scores."

Ehrhardt praised the activeness of VSU's community.

"We stand out from other schools due to student engagement within the community and campus events. Plus, with our school having just enough students in attendance, the events feel more enjoyable than overpopulated," said Ehrhardt.

The Spectator contacted the VSU president's office for comment about the ranking, but did not receive answers in time for publication.

Sikes, like many students, enjoys the little things that make VSU special.

"I love how pretty our campus is, from the trees all around to the beautiful grand front lawn. This is a place where you can escape, learn, and embrace the spark of Blazer Nation," she said.

Best Campus Community Service:

News 1st Place

The Red & Black University of Georgia



Nicholas Nichols, a member of Wyatt Banks pledge class, speaks during the vigil at UGA Tate Plaza.



Two students embrace during a vigil in memory of UGA freshman Wyatt Banks and Augusta University nursing student Laken Riley at UGA Tate Plaza in Athens, Georgia, on Monday, Feb. 26, 2024.

'Not one more Dawg'

UGA community comes together to remember Laken Riley and Wyatt Banks

Staff report

In a sea of hundreds of people, not one person in the University of Georgia community was alone in their grief.

Students and the campus community gathered in mourning on Monday, Feb. 26, at Tate Plaza to honor Wyatt Banks' and Laken Riley's lives. The vigil was jointly hosted by UGA's Kappa Sigma fraternity and Alpha Chi Omega sorority chapters—brothers and sisters to Banks and Riley.

"They were both students here—they were basically family to us, regardless of how much we got to interact with them or get to know them," Lauren Bismuthoff, a freshman psychology major, said.

In the span of 48 hours, the two students died on campus—Banks on Wednesday, Feb. 21, and Riley on Thursday, Feb. 22. In the wake of their deaths, which were unrelated incidents, campus emptied and fell quiet after administrators suspended class and the community grieved unaccommodated losses.

Students and community members have poured out support for Banks' and Riley's loved ones in the days following their deaths.

"Not one more Dawg," Dorothy Dunbar, president of UGA's Psi Chi Honor Council, said at the Feb. 26 vigil.

Remembering two lives
Banks, a freshman, was a student in the Morehead Honor College and was majoring in political science and economics. He was also a member of the Kappa Sigma chapter at UGA.

"He was definitely a person you would want to get to know because no matter who you are, he was always willing to help," Nicholas Nichols, a member of Banks' pledge class, said. "It was always fun with him. Hanging out on our dorms and watching movies...talking out in the library study rooms for hours."

Friends remember Banks as someone who was always kind, fun to be around and looking out for others. He was loved by everyone and an integral part of Kappa Sigma, chapter member Joe Bishwein wrote in a text to The Red & Black.

"When he walked into the room, you could feel his presence there—always smiling," Jonathan Tassoni, freshmen senate major and banker friend, said.

Banks was elected to one of the chapter rush chairs for the upcoming year and was a great fit for the position, according to Tassoni, who was a member of the same pledge class as Banks. Tassoni said Banks was already making connections to potential chapter members, such as Tassoni's roommate.

Tassoni said he hopes people remember Banks by being aware of how mental health issues impact men. Mental Health America reported that nearly one in three experience depression or anxiety, but less than half will receive treatment.

"I think that part of his legacy should be an emphasis on men's mental health. There's a stigma around it that a lot of men are afraid to really open up and share their feelings to people," Tassoni said. "And I feel like Wyatt was a person who was great at that because through all of his smiling and laughter that he brought to me, he was really hurting inside and it's just a travesty to see."

The Kappa Sigma Beta Lambda chapter executed a fundraiser for Banks' memorial. The GoFundMe campaign hit \$300,000 goal to support the family and raise awareness toward mental health.

According to the GoFundMe, Kappa Sigma plans to present the money to Bank's family to cover funeral expenses, donate to mental health organizations, establish a scholarship fund or for other ideas Bank's family feels will memorialize him.

Riley, 21, was killed on campus on Thursday, Feb. 22. A friend reported her missing after not returning from a run that morning.

Riley was a nursing student at the Ath-

lens campus in Athens.

The College of Nursing will miss Laken's spirit on campus," the college wrote in a post on Instagram. "We know that she would have been a wonderful nurse, and her passing is a loss for the profession and the community she would have graciously served."

Concerns for safety and well-being
UGA canceled classes on the Friday following the two deaths. Multiple events across campus were also canceled or rescheduled. Many students chose to go home for the weekend because of safety concerns.

"I usually don't feel unsafe on campus," Angie Botello, a senior biology major, said. "But knowing what happened and how [Riley] died in the middle of the day is kind of concerning. Now, generally I don't feel as safe as I did before."

UGA Housing announced that access doors would operate on an alternate schedule through the weekend following Riley's death as a safety measure. Students were reminded to carry their UGAChAT to enter UGA Housing facilities.

"Riley's death is a reminder that you are not safe, but you're never actually one hundred percent safe," Botello said. "It's generally to more aware of my surroundings [now]."

Parents also took to social media to express concerns for student safety at UGA.

"It just made me sick and heartbroken, because that could have been my daughter," Veronica Herzelt, whose daughter is a UGA student, said. "I think we need to do better."

"I think we can do better... It could be your roommate, it could be your daughter."

As a further call for campus safety, an anonymous female student started a petition following Riley's death to request an emergency blue light on UGA's campus. The blue light button would alert directly with emergency services. At the time of publishing, the petition had more than 35,000 signatures.

UGA administrators recommended students, faculty and staff download the UGA Safe App, travel in groups when possible and be aware of surroundings.

The app features designed to increase student safety including a chat function and the ability to share their location with police or a friend. It also provides emergency resources and guidance for reporting tips to the police, warning maps of campus and ongoing information in the UGAAlert system.

"It is a really effective way and we're trying to encourage every member of the campus by...making these safety features—so people use it," Trevor said.

The campus community also expressed concern for the mental well-being of students, particularly of men. Men are less likely to seek help for mental health, according to a study in the American Journal of Men's Health. Women in the U.S. are 1.4 times more likely to receive any form of mental health treatment compared to men, across a 12-month period, according to the study.

"What I feel is that we need to make sure that he was the one truly in need of help," Nichols said at the vigil. "I feel many others will never see that we had someone who was really hurting inside and it's just a travesty to see."

Students were also encouraged to contact Counseling and Population Services at Student Center and Outreach for support following the deaths on campus. At the Monday vigil held on campus, counselors were at Tate Plaza to offer support to men in attendance.

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reminded on Friday, the college's campus remained open as a gathering place for students, faculty and staff.

"The College of Nursing will miss Laken's spirit on campus," the college wrote in a post on Instagram. "We know that she would have been a wonderful nurse, and her passing is a loss for the profession and the community she would have graciously served."

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As the vigil came to an end, UGA's campus emergency and Population Services at Student Center and Outreach for support following the deaths on campus. At the Monday vigil held on campus, counselors were at Tate Plaza to offer support to men in attendance.

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A student prays during the vigil at UGA Tate Plaza.

ens campus of Augusta University's College of Nursing. She attended UGA until the spring of 2023 before transferring to the nursing college. In the fall of 2023, she made the dean's list at Augusta University, and she was set to graduate in 2025.

She received her honorary white coat in August 2024, symbolizing "humanism, compassion and the start of her nurse's journey," according to an Instagram post made by the school in Riley's memory.

In addition to pursuing nursing, Riley's passion to care for others led her to work as a nurse, according to her obituary.

"Laken was an amazing, disabled, sister, friend and overall person in general. Her love for the Lord was unscripted in every aspect of her life," the obituary states.

Riley graduated from River Ridge High School in 2018 and was from Woodstock, Georgia. She was a member of the UGA Alpha Chi Omega sorority.

"She was still active in her sorority both" university spokesman Greg Trevor told The Red & Black, "who was active in the community and well known and from all seasons were well loved."

A GoFundMe in Riley's honor has received more than \$125,000 in donations, surpassing the fundraiser's \$100,000 goal by about \$100,000 at the time of publication.

The fundraiser, according to the organizer's post, was created to assist the family with funeral expenses or to cover other expenses for Riley's family.

The GoFundMe will also work to raise the Laken Riley Foundation to raise homicide victims and increase safety for women, according to the obituary.

"We words can express the pain and heartache that Laken's family and friends are experiencing," the GoFundMe post read. "She was a wonderful friend, sister, daughter, etc. who touched the lives of everyone around her. Her infectious smile and contagious laugh lit up every room she entered."

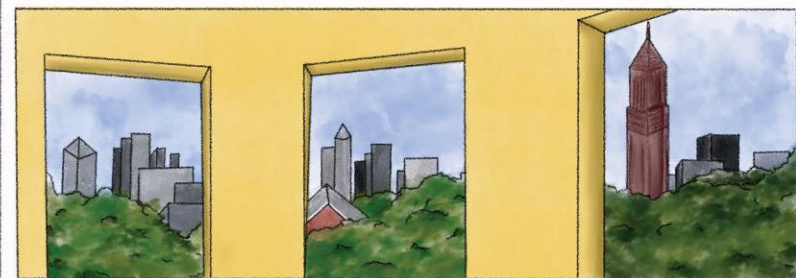
Other community groups released statements in response to the deaths.

"Please don't stop running," wrote the Blue Hill Run Club in an Instagram post Friday regarding Riley's death. "As women we are always on guard and aware of our safety anywhere we go, it is not fair. This is a horrific event and something that we unfortunately have seen in national news time and time again. Don't let that take away your power."

Counselors and support services were at the Athens campus of the Augusta University College of Nursing the day after Riley's death, along with the interns, dean and other administrators. While classes were

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Solidarity Week returns for its eighth year



Lectures and celebrations highlight cultural diversity and social issues
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VOL. 132 | No. 7 | Athens, Georgia Thursday, October 17, 2024

KEEPING CAMPUS SECURED

UGA rolls out new safety ambassador program



Campus Safety Ambassadors Dallas Harvey (left) and Bryan Lasseter (right) stand for a portrait in front of the University of Georgia Police Department on Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2024 in Athens, Georgia. Photo: KENNEDY WINTER

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