



NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2024

President's Pen

Dear Piedmont University Community,

Happy New Year! As we usher in the new year and begin the Spring 2024 semester it is important to celebrate our accomplishments with an eye toward the future. Just before the holidays we announced the opening of Georgia's first Forensics Academy, offering three Forensic Science certifications at the Demorest Campus. We are making gains in enrollment throughout the state, and the fall-to-fall student retention rate rose to 77%, up from 68%! Opportunities for continued growth and achievement abound, and I look forward to making 2024 remarkable, together.

Sincerely,
Marshall M. Criser, III

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Jalen Davis and Amari Price

On January 6, 2024, the Piedmont men's and women's basketball programs celebrated Alumni Day, welcoming numerous past student athletes back to Cave Arena.

During the doubleheader against CCS foe Huntingdon, women's basketball alums Jalen Davis and Amari Price joined the broadcast for the women's game while men's basketball alums Dr. Octavius Mulligan, Michael Joseph and Dalton Meeler joined for the men's game to reflect back on their time at Piedmont and offer their thoughts on the program.

Piedmont is a family-oriented place. We are a community within ourselves. That was one of the main reasons that led me to Piedmont. When they gave me the opportunity to get my degree here as well as play basketball, I knew this was the place for me. - *Jalen Davis, former women's basketball student-athlete & Recruiter in Piedmont Undergraduate Admissions*

To listen to the full broadcasts, please visit [here](#).



Congratulations to Sarah Moore on her acceptance into the Georgia Speech Language Hearing Association - Leadership & Mentoring Academy! Sarah is in her first semester of grad school at Piedmont and is from Jefferson, GA.

The program is designed for students in communication sciences and disorders to develop leadership skills, network with professionals, and design and engage in a service project.

We wish her luck as she pursues her project providing information through daycare centers on methods to improve children's early language abilities.





Return of the Mac - Roommates Reunited



After years of searching, Wes finally found him. Garry "Mac" MacEwen, his old Piedmont College roommate from the 70s. Despite the passage of 43 years the pair picked up right where they left off. In November 2023 the two of them traveled back to campus to reminisce about their time here. Mac loved being back so much that he returned in January for the Piedmont University basketball reunion. This is what he had to say about his visits and his time at Piedmont...



I had one of the best weeks of my life when Wes finally located me and invited me back to northeast Georgia. It was a joy to meet his wife Beth, his daughter and granddaughter. Wes took me for a tour of the area and college, now a university, that I hadn't seen in 43 years. Piedmont should be very proud of what they have become-- a first class University.

When we visited Piedmont, everyone I met was wonderful and gracious. Wes and I were given alumni tee shirts and hats. We proudly put them on. They were all surprised and excited when I told them I actually coached the women's basketball team in 1978. I went to Dr. Walters my senior year and asked if I could coach the team. It was only the second year of women's basketball at Piedmont. It was a great experience. I was able to meet Coach Purdy, who coaches women's basketball now. She invited me to come back later that day and watch them practice. What an impressive gymnasium. We played in the old gym and had to worry about all the dead spots on the floor.

They all said I had to come back for their men's and women's basketball reunion on January 6th. I am so glad I did. I got to visit Wes again, see the women and men play, and to meet some old friends. It was nice when they recognized all of us. I hope they continue to have these reunions; it's a great reason to visit.

Thanks to you all for inviting me to the reunion. My coach in high school, Ken Rice, would have been happy I did. Ken was the reason I attended Piedmont. He is also an alumnus and member of the Athletic Hall of Fame.



Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Kristin Ford Brings FBI Background to Piedmont's Criminal Justice Programs



Ford was a freshman in high school when she decided she wanted to work in the FBI's crime lab. As a freshman in college, she was an undeclared biology major who wanted to work with DNA analysis, however, the classes were not what she'd imagined they would be. In her second semester, she took a psychology class. "I thought, 'Wait a minute. This is what I want to do.' The human brain, to me, is the most fascinating thing in the world. I just grew a love for psychology," Ford said.

A first-generation college student, who grew up in Long Island NY, Ford achieved an undergrad in psychology and special education from James Madison University, and a graduate degree in forensic psychology from Argosy University. Then a Ph.D. in criminal justice/law enforcement administration from Capella University.

Between her undergraduate and graduate studies, Ford worked for a police department in a tiny town answering the phone and dispatching law enforcement officers, fire, and EMS. That experience solidified her desire to work in criminal justice.

After two years, Ford applied for and secured an administrative position with the FBI.

As she completed her master's degree, she set her sights on the bureau's exceptionally selective Behavioral Analysis Unit (BAU).

"I was extremely blessed that I got in — on my fifth attempt," Ford said. "It was there that I absolutely knew what I wanted to be doing." Ford stayed with the FBI for 19 years, eight of them in the BAU. She also provided criminal intelligence support for other units.

At Piedmont, she is a professor with a mix of in-person and online courses. She enjoys face-to-face interaction with undergraduates eager to learn more about criminal justice and possibly follow a path like hers.

"From talking to students and others who have been around for a while, I know a lot of students were in internships that led to careers. That is awesome. I didn't have that at my undergrad, but I went to a big state school, and you were just a number."

Ford teaches victimology, abnormal psychology, introductory courses for research methods and criminal justice, and a senior seminar for the social sciences. She will teach other psychology courses as needed.

Calendar of Events

JANUARY

1/27 Art Reception, Austin Wieland

1/28 Jeri-Mae G. Astolfi, Piano

FEBRUARY

2/11 Valentine's Tea for Alumni & More

2/15-18 Theatre: A Piece of My Heart

2/19 Preview Piedmont

2/22 Alumni Event: Hamilton at the Fox Theatre

2/24 Piedmont Goes Red 5K and 1-Mile Fun Run

2/29 Andrea M. Price, Soprano, & Karen Sigers, Piano

MARCH

3/7 Art Reception, Barq's Root Beer: A History of Design

3/22 Piedmont Athletic Lions (PAL) Games

3/26 Piedmont University singers

3/28 Spring Art Studio Walkthrough

For event details, or to view the full calendar, please visit [here](#).



ANNUAL GIFTS of \$1,000 OR MORE
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