

NEWSLETTER



Dear Piedmont University Community,

While we are on the cusp of spring, there is a distinct buzz of activity around both campuses that is exciting to see. This month we have several fine arts events, an active-shooter disaster drill, and the always heartwarming Piedmont Athletic Lions (PAL) games on the Demorest campus, and a "Meet the President" event on the Athens campus. The month concludes with Living Like a Lion, where students who have been accepted to the university get to experience "a day in the life of a Piedmont student."

As we continue to focus on academic achievements and career readiness in the classroom, activities such as these outside the classroom provide our students with a well-rounded educational experience.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to ensuring our success!

Sincerely, Marshall M. Criser, III March 2025

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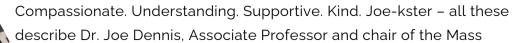




From Demorest to Athens, Dr. Joe Dennis Logy of an Impact by August Rotter

Leaves an Impact

Staff Writer, The Roar



Communications department at Piedmont. However, Dr. Dennis is much more than a professor. He is a father, husband, friend, and Public Address announcer for a new local hockey team, the Athens Rock Lobsters.

Originally from Chicago, Dr. Dennis (colloquially known as Joe) originally studied at North Central College in Naperville, Illinois before getting his master's and PhD in Mass Communications from the University of Georgia.

While waiting for his wife to graduate, he became a SID (sports information director) at his former school.

"I feel like the luckiest person in the world, because I really had three dreams at different parts of my life...and I've been able to work through all of my dream professions."

After moving to Athens, Joe, known as "Just Joe" on the radio, worked at a rock radio station in Athens while also working as an editor for the Walton Tribune. His third dream profession was teaching, and he discovered that passion while teaching at UGA, beginning in 2009.

Dr. Dennis arrived at Piedmont in 2016, and was already the P.A. announcer for the UGA Ice Dawgs club hockey team. Due to his standing with the Ice Dawgs, Joe was the first choice to fulfill the vacant position of Rock Lobsters P.A. announcer.

"Pursuing this opportunity was a no brainer to me, because it's not work to me, it doesn't feel like work... It's the same kind of thing with announcing my kid's baseball games, or the games for the [Clark Central] High School. I would be supporting the team anyways...it's kind of my zen moment."

This passion for his job and his love for his work is apparent in his third dream as well: teaching.

A large part of having the best interest of students is fostering a family-like environment in the mass communication department.

Students have expressed the love and support that Dr. Dennis pours into the department.

"Joe is a supportive advisor. Not only that, but he is also a very laid-back professor who has become a friend," said senior sports communications major Eric Edmonson.

Dr. Dennis loves his family, students, colleagues and jobs, and is patient with all those who come to him with struggles. When asked for advice to give to Piedmont Students, Joe said:

"Recognize that dreams change, priorities change. Give yourself credit for the little victories."







SAIL Sets First-Year Riley Robinson Up for Success



by Grace Wills



Riley Robinson makes a strong first impression. His sense of humor and thoughtful manner of speaking suggest the maturity and intelligence of a young adult doing ordinary reflections at the end of their college years. But Riley is no ordinary student and not yet an adult; at just 17 years old, he is halfway through his first year as a first-generation college student and a first-generation high school graduate.

Riley's career as an exceptional student began in high school. Eager and ambitious, he accelerated his education by taking night classes at Mountain Education Charter High School to graduate early. After finding that he could not live on campus at other universities because of his early graduation, Riley chose to attend Piedmont, intending to transfer after a year. Piedmont, however, proved too good to leave.

"I feel like I get to make more personal connections, and those have been very meaningful. I don't think I could get the same thing somewhere else," says Riley.

Those personal connections began on an especially interesting note. As a Voyager in Piedmont's SAIL Program, Riley attended special events before the beginning of his first semester designed to acquaint him and his peers with campus life. One of those events was a hiking trip near Camp Mikell in Toccoa. Riley and his group (accompanied by SAIL Captain Jim Peeples) set out on their hike but soon realized an issue; their map had led them on a trail that had yet to be completed, and they were lost.

"It wasn't funny in the moment," says Riley, "but it's pretty funny now."

One of the ways Riley is making that impact is by cofounding VOICE (Voices Offering Insight, Compassion, and Empathy), a club aimed at building connections between staff, counselors, and students. "A friendship club, essentially," Riley calls it, "a place where students struggling to find community on campus can find that."

While he looks forward to launching VOICE during college, the more distant future is always in mind. As a double major in health administration and biology, Riley hopes to become a doctor and, eventually, a professor. His ambition and inspiration come from his desire to help others; he says he wants to make an impact, whether medical or academic.



His impact is already felt on our campus and will surely be felt for the remainder of his time as a student. We are proud to have a student as exceptional as Riley, who exemplifies daily what it means to be a Lion!





CHAMPIONS: Women's Basketball Shuts Down Belhaven in 64-51 Title Game Victory



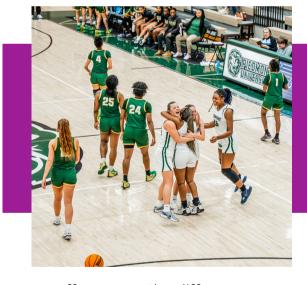


Piedmont women's basketball clinched its first ever Collegiate Conference of the South Tournament Title, rolling over Belhaven in the second half with a 64-51 win on Saturday afternoon inside Cave Arena.

Nae-Nae Eades was the catalyst for the Lions on offense, scoring a career-high 20 points on 18-of-22 from the free throw line while dishing out four assists. After the game, she was named CCS Tournament MVP.

Eades was joined in double figures by Alexandria Willis, who tallied 16 points and 12 rebounds, her fourth double double of the season. Seniors Ashley Scott and Andelin Hill pitched in as well, with Scott scoring 13 points and Hill grabbing a careerhigh 19 rebounds in the win.

Both teams struggled shooting the ball, with Piedmont claiming the win despite a 25.4% field goal percentage. However, the Lions were stifling on the defensive end, holding the Blazers to 27.7% shooting.





Piedmont's aggressiveness on offense was the difference, shooting a season-high 40 free throws and making 31 of them, led by Eades' 18-of-22 performance.

This marks Piedmont's first conference tournament title since three-peating in the USA South from 2017-19. The last of those three wins came in 2019 at Cave Arena.

Alumni Reunion Day

Saturday, April 26, 2025

<u>TIME</u> 9:30 am	EVENT Alumni Annual Meeting / Breakfast
	Student Commons Banquet Hall
11:00 am	Alumni Awards & Sports Hall of Fame Student Commons Banquet Hall
12:30 pm	Alumni Banquet Student Commons Banquet Hall
1:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Food Trucks Pinky's Shaved Ice & Fender's Diner Behind Mize Center
1:30 pm	Men's & Women's Basketball Alumni Game & Competitions Mize Center Cave Arena
2:00 pm	Baseball Game & Alumni Reunion Loudermilk Field
2:00 pm -	College / Department Reunions
4:00 pm	College of Education
	College of Business College of Nursing & Health Sciences
	Natural Sciences Department
5:00 pm	Alumni Reunion Dinner
	Classes of 1960, 1965, 1970, &1975
	Student Commons Dining Hall
7:30 pm	Great Composers Concert & Chamber
-	Singers Reunion
	Music Conservatory

For more information: <u>Alumni & Friends | Piedmont University</u> Contact Bri Cantrell at bcantrellapiedmont.edu or call 706-776-0104



MARCH

3/18 Piedmont Camerata

3/19 Disaster Drill

3/20 Piedmont Athletic Lions

(PAL) Games

3/22 Museum Family Workshop

3/25 Piedmont Singers

3/25 Meet the President.

Athens Campus

3/28 Living Like a Lion

APRIL

4/10-13 Steel Magnolias

4/10 Piedmont Wind Ensemble

4/10 Symposium

4/15 Piedmont String Orchestra

4/17 Piedmont Chamber

Ensembles

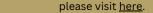
4/26 Great Composers Concert

4/26 Alumni Reunion Day

MAY

5/9 Spring Commencement

For event details, or to view the full calendar,







1/1/2024-3/1/2025

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to our Yonahian Society and donors. Your generosity and support have made a significant impact on Piedmont University. Your contributions have enabled us to continue our work, reach our goals, and make a positive difference in the lives of those we serve.

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