



NEWSLETTER

President's Pen

Dear Piedmont University Community,

Welcome back to campus! I hope your summer was both restful and inspiring.

As we begin a new academic year, I'm filled with excitement for the opportunities ahead. Our campus thrives because of your energy, creativity, and commitment—and I'm confident that together, we will continue to learn, grow, and make a lasting impact.

Thank you for all you do to make our university such a vibrant community. Let's make it a great year!

Sincerely,
Marshall M. Criser, III

August 2025

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Chelsey Sanders Spent the Summer Welcoming New Students Home to Piedmont

by Grace Wills



Pictured far right

If you have visited Piedmont University's Office of Undergraduate Admissions in the last few months, chances are you met Chelsey Sanders. A rising senior, Chelsey is a constant presence and help in the office. She guides prospective students and families on campus tours, helps plan and execute summer orientation sessions, and attends to other tasks as needed by the admissions staff. Her assistance this summer has been invaluable — her knowledge of and passion for Piedmont shine through her every action.

Her dedication has earned her the title of President of the TEAM Piedmont Ambassadors, students who serve as liaisons between undergraduate admissions and prospective families.

We caught up with Chelsey as preparations for returning to classes began.

Here's what she had to say about her experiences working with undergraduate admissions:

Q: How did you get started working for Admissions?

I started working in Admissions in September 2022 during my freshman year. I first became interested in the opportunity during the club and organization fair at Welcome Week. It immediately stood out to me, and I knew I wanted to get involved.

Q: What is your favorite part of working for Admissions?

My favorite part is definitely helping with events and giving campus tours to prospective students. It's rewarding to know I might be part of the reason someone chooses Piedmont. Being able to share my experience and love for the school makes the job feel really meaningful.

Q: Do you have any favorite memories from working with Admissions?

I have a book full of favorite memories! Working in Admissions isn't just a job, it's like being part of a family. One of my favorite memories is the night before major events. After we finish setting everything up, we usually go out to eat as a team. It always feels like family time, and those moments really stick with me.

Q: What advice do you have for incoming freshmen?

Get out there and get involved. College will be the fastest four years of your life, and you don't want to spend it all in your room. I know there's homework, tests, jobs, or practice, but making time for friends and campus events is so worth it. Yes, study and stay on top of your work but also manage your time so you don't burn out. Balance is everything.





Defending Titles and Cutting Down Nets: The Best of Spring 2025

by Joseph Garwood



Sustained success continued to define Piedmont athletics in the spring of 2025 as the Lions defended titles and cut down nets inside Cave Arena.

In total, there were five postseason championships, two regular season team titles and four of those were championships defended (Women's Tennis, CCS Regular Season; Men's Swimming, ISSC Conference Meet; Men's Track & Field, CCS Conference; Men's Golf, CCS Conference Tournament).

"Repeating as conference champions is very challenging," said former Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Jim Peeples. "It is also important to point out the level of commitment from our student-athletes to elevate their training, preparation, and ability to compete at their highest level. It is a tremendous cultural component of our department."

The women's basketball team earned the CCS Regular Season Championship and took the Tournament title as the host team, cutting down the nets inside Cave Arena for the first time since 2019.

"We are so fortunate to have Coach Purdy here serving in the many roles she has within our athletic department but also the many different committees she serves on throughout the campus," Peeples stated. "I could not serve as the Director of Athletics without having her assist me with the leadership of our department. This season was a testament to dealing with and navigating through adversity."

"Seven athletes earned Conference Of the Year Awards and there were a total of 15 individual CCS Champions. In all, 105 winter and spring sport athletes earned All-Conference honors.

For a full look back at all of the accomplishments to conclude the 2024-25 season, click [here](#).

Dr. Michael Friedline: Brain Science, Trail Runs, and Teaching from the Heart

by Terrie Ellerbee



Ask any Piedmont student who's taken a class with Dr. Michael Friedline, and they'll likely mention two things: how animated he gets when teaching—and how much he genuinely cares about their success.

"I get very animated teaching challenging material," said Dr. Friedline, associate professor of Neuroscience and Psychology. "I'm not sure anyone learns anything, but they are certainly entertained."

That humility is classic Friedline. But don't let his self-deprecating humor fool you. Since joining Piedmont in 2016 as an adjunct professor, Dr. Friedline has left an undeniable mark on the university. He moved into a

full-time role in 2018, earned promotion to assoc. professor in 2023, and was instrumental in launching the undergraduate neuroscience program that same year. He started the sports psychology minor last year. His impact extends beyond the classroom. Dr. Friedline is currently serving his second term as Faculty Senate Chair and was named Piedmont University's Outstanding Undergraduate Advisor in May 2025—a reflection of the trust students place in him.

"A student once told me she felt that I always set students up to succeed," he said. "That's probably the most meaningful feedback I've ever received."

Dr. Friedline didn't always know he would end up in psychology. As an undergraduate, he bounced between biology and philosophy before landing on psychology after taking a lower-level Brain and Behavior class.

That spark led him to the lab of his professor-turned-mentor, where he found his path in biopsychology. He went on to earn his M.S., Ph.D., and later a Master of Public Health from the University of Georgia.

Today, Dr. Friedline makes it his mission to guide students in the same way.

"I tell students, 'I don't care what you know. I care what you do with what you know.' I hope they leave my class feeling like they can use their knowledge in meaningful ways."

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Dr. Friedline shares a unique connection to Piedmont: his daughter, Dr. Mary Friedline, is an assistant professor of Philosophy and Religion.

"It's one of my great pleasures to call Mary Leah my colleague," he said. "When she first started teaching, students would run up to me and say, very excitedly, 'I have your daughter!'"



Piedmont Alum Addie Bowen Leaves an Impressive Legacy as She Moves to Her Next Chapter

by Grace Wills

If you are a member of the Piedmont community, you have likely already heard her name. Addie Bowen, with her myriad accomplishments, is a popular figure around campus; professors frequently mention her as a model student, and Piedmont's own publications and posts have featured her multiple times. Now, as she prepares to leave for graduate school, Addie shares some of her own thoughts on her college years.

Addie's Piedmont journey actually began with someone else's: her mother's. Addie's mom attended Piedmont as a student of education, which inspired Addie to investigate and eventually choose Piedmont for herself. With an interest in a career in forensics, she initially chose that and biology as her majors. That was until she took a class with Dr. Elaine Bailey.

"Dr. Bailey is the professor that has inspired me the most," Addie says. "She has cultivated my thoughts and ideas into projects that have challenged me." Inspired by her professor, Addie changed her biology major to chemistry. Along the way, more chemistry professors inspired her.

"I would also like to mention Dr. [Areatha] Ketch. She has challenged me more times than I can count," Addie says. The guidance from these professors and the rest of the Piedmont community shaped Addie's college years and exemplify the personal connections students make with our faculty. In fact, Addie cites her friends and relationships with faculty as the most meaningful part of her college experience.



Aside from her work in the classroom, Addie has been an active student in extracurriculars. She has served as a tutor and lab assistant, worked on eight research projects, and joined multiple organizations including the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority, SAIL, MANE, and more.

Now, after years of accomplishments at Piedmont, Addie is setting off to make her mark in graduate school. She will attend the University of South Carolina to pursue a PhD in Environmental Analytical Chemistry. Her hope is to work for the government in bioremediation, which is the process of using organisms to clean up pollution, to help people and the environment after an accident.

Before she departs, she shares one last piece of advice for future Piedmont students: "School is important, but so is taking care of yourself. College is what you make it, so don't miss the forest for the trees."

With her wisdom, intelligence, and drive, Addie is sure to be an exemplary Piedmont alum. **Congratulations, Addie, on graduating as part of the Piedmont class of 2025!**

For more information about forensics, click [here](#). For more information about chemistry, click [here](#).

Register now for the 37th Annual Coach Cave Memorial Golf Tournament!



September 2, 2025

piedmont.edu/golf

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

\$1500 GOLD SPONSOR

Includes two foursomes, large hole sponsor sign, display table at event, company supplied banner display and insert in goodie bag.

\$750 SILVER SPONSOR

Includes one foursome, hole sponsor sign, and insert in goodie bag.

\$300 HOLE SPONSOR

Includes hole sponsor sign and insert in goodie bag.

Entry Fee

\$150 / PLAYER

\$600 / TEAM

To learn more or register, visit [here](http://piedmont.edu/golf).

Calendar of Events

AUGUST

8/21 Art Reception: Merri
Lawrence & Ann Beason:
Silver Linings

SEPTEMBER

9/1 Art Exhibit Opens:
Conserving America's
Wildlands: The Vision of Ted
Turner by Rhett Turner

9/2 37th Annual Coach Cave
Golf Tournament @ The
Orchard

9/2 Founder's Day Breakfast

9/7 Piedmont University
Camerata

9/18 Fine Arts College
Experience (FACE)

9/20 Fall Family Day and
Bogey & the Viceroy Concert

For event details, or to view the full calendar,
please visit [here](http://piedmont.edu/golf).