



NEWSLETTER

President's Pen

Dear Piedmont University community,

Fall is one of my favorite times on campus. As the leaves begin to change across the North Georgia foothills, our campus comes alive with the energy of a new season—athletic competitions, student performances, campus traditions and opportunities to gather as a community. These moments are an important part of what makes Piedmont special. They allow us to celebrate our students' talents, recognize their accomplishments and strengthen the connections that make this university feel like home.

I encourage everyone in our Piedmont community to take time this fall to get involved and experience all that campus has to offer. Whether you are a student, faculty or staff member, alumnus or member of our broader community, your presence helps make these experiences meaningful.

Sincerely,
Marshall M. Criser, III

BE A **LION**

October 2026

IN THIS ISSUE

Student Success	2
Staff Spotlight	3
Athletics	4
Giving Day	6
Upcoming Events	7
<i>The Addams</i> <i>Family Musical</i>	7
We Give Thanks	8



Built to Last: Senior Camryn Oddo's Handiwork is All Over Stewart Hall

by Terrie Ellerbee



Piedmont University senior Camryn Oddo from Roswell, Georgia, didn't set out to become the student departments call when they need something built. It just happened. Her talent for design and building has shaped two projects in Stewart Hall: a curvy, custom chair in the microbiology lab, and an oversized Periodic Table.

Oddo began building things long before she came to the university.

"The first time I ever dealt with woodworking was with my dad," she said. The pair made ink pens together on his lathe, just for fun.

Oddo arrived at Piedmont undecided on a major. When a digital fabrication class unexpectedly opened her freshman year, she signed up — and loved it.

That led to a Symposium project suggestion from Chris Kelly, Professor of Art and Associate Dean of Fine Arts and Communications: reach out to another department and collaborate. Oddo knew Biology Professor Dr. Julia Schmitz from a study-abroad trip to Greece, and that connection led to a shortlist of ideas — including a chair designed for the awkward, ill-fitting seating at the department's chemical hood desk. No commercial chair had ever fit right.

"Working with Camryn was an absolute joy. She went above and beyond by not only creating the chair but also incorporating the school's logo and adding bacteria images to the sides," Schmitz said. "Those personal touches made the chair even more special and meaningful. I truly appreciate her creativity, attention to detail, and willingness to make it unique."

The Periodic Table came next, bigger and more ambitious. In her words, it was obvious in concept but trickier in execution than she expected. Not only is it huge, but there is a cubby for every element in the table. Working with Dr. Elaine Bailey, Professor of Chemistry and Chair of the Department of Natural Sciences, Oddo scaled her original design down significantly so it would fit the CNC bed — and it's still large enough to span the wall opposite the elevator in Stewart Hall.

Bailey had been wanting the periodic table for some time and appreciated that Oddo was open to her ideas.



"We met frequently to discuss possible design options. She even made a bunch of mockup designs for me to choose from." The result is a piece that Bailey describes as "absolutely amazing." "We will enjoy it for years. I am so grateful that she wanted to tackle this project. It was so much fun to work with Camryn," Bailey added.

PEACE Garden Offers Lessons in Growth, Life

by Terrie Ellerbee



Blessed Mutebi, Jessica Eanes, Dana Davis, Oliver Howington, and Dr. Deb Dooley at the PEACE Garden. The garden beds have been cleaned and reseeded with cool weather crops.

Four raised garden beds just outside Loudermill Field came to life this summer with tomatoes, okra, cucumbers, and marigolds. The PEACE Garden, named for the club that set the plot in motion, continues to offer lessons in faith, patience, and reward. Athletic Training major Dana Davis and fellow members of the Piedmont Environmental and Conservation Effort (PEACE) Club had tossed around the idea of a community garden. They had the community and the space. What they needed was a plan. Then Oliver Howington, coordinator for the Learning Center, got involved.

"He truly is the reason the garden took off because he took our idea and set a plan into motion," Davis said. Howington knew the merits of the project as it connects so well to his life before Piedmont. For about a decade, he was a commercial beekeeper. Later, he worked in research at Georgia Tech studying the biomechanics of pollen pellets. He was left with a deep appreciation for how plants, pollinators, and healthy ecosystems depend on one another.

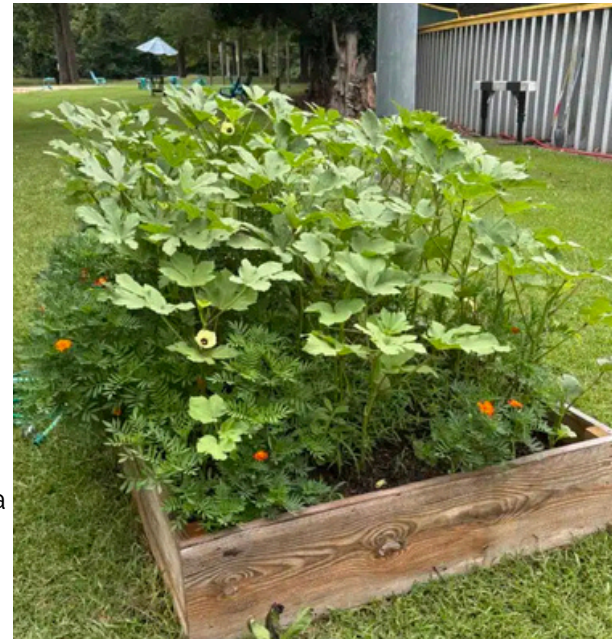
"It's been meaningful to help create a space where those connections are visible on campus," Howington said. It also ties into his day job. As an academic coach at the Student Success Center, Howington spends his time helping students build confidence and reach goals one step at a time. He sees the same principle at work in the garden beds. "Students often want immediate results, whether that's higher grades, stronger study habits, or greater confidence, but real development happens through consistency," he said.

"Gardening teaches the same lesson. You prepare the conditions, provide support, stay patient, and trust the process. You don't plant a seed one day and expect a harvest the next."

There were lessons in the challenges: bugs, deer, and summer heat.

"What has surprised me the most is how quickly your garden can change," Davis said. "You stop by one day and you barely have seedlings; next thing you know, the garden bed is full, and you can have vegetables overly ripe. It's really shown me that we cannot choose when things become fruitful, and to focus on the things we can control."

The garden is one piece of a larger mission for the PEACE Club, which also runs an entirely student-volunteered campus recycling program, organizes cleanups, hikes, tree plantings, and field trips — all independent of official campus services.





Piedmont Family Day Brings Green-and-Gold Pride to the Field



by Timmy McCormack



Outlined against a blue-grey sky that would have made Grantland Rice jealous, Piedmont's athletic department welcomed back a number of its own as part of the University's Fall Family Day that occurred in early September. Though rain threatened to wash out the weekend, the spirit felt throughout Walker Athletic Complex couldn't be dampened. Combined with the multitude of families on campus celebrating the weekend, the crowds enjoyed a wonderful fall sports atmosphere.

The celebration kicked off with the men's soccer team in action on Friday's early afternoon as the Lions hosted the

first of two games in two days on the turf. Following the men's game that saw Piedmont tie William Peace 1-1 on Friday, Piedmont's women's soccer program hosted the first two of four games in the Bradford Classic, a tournament named in memoriam of Piedmont Professor Curtis Bradford.

The women's squad picked up a pair of wins over the weekend starting with a 2-0 victory over NC Wesleyan on Senior Day.

By Saturday morning, the energy shifted to the Commons where families shook off a light, damp mist over warm greetings and lively conversation. While some younger siblings crowded around painting tables and craft booths managed by the Campus Activities Board, a steady stream of parents, alumni, and students began migrating toward the various athletic complexes.

Later Saturday afternoon, Piedmont's women's soccer team hosted its annual Green-Gold Senior Scrimmage after the men's squad played its second game of the weekend against Greensboro College. Ten graduating seniors stood shoulder-to-shoulder on the turf they had defended for four years, escorted by proud parents holding custom posters and green-and-gold bouquets, while each player was recognized over the stadium loudspeakers for their dedication to the program.





Piedmont Family Day Brings Green-and-Gold Pride to the Field, cont.



by Timmy McCormack



With a BBQ food truck stationed up on the hill, a successful Saturday turned into a comeback Sunday as the women's soccer team rallied from a 2-1 deficit late to score two goals in the final ten minutes defeating visiting Meredith College.

The family visitations continued beyond the weekend as the Piedmont volleyball team hosted a doubleheader on the following Wednesday, September 16. It began with a thrilling 5-set victory for the Lions against Brevard before Piedmont completed a sweep with a 3-0 victory over in-state rival Oglethorpe University later that evening.

Between events, families gathered around the athletic facilities, visiting the food trucks and taking photos against the campus backdrop. The university bookstore saw a revolving door of families eager to deck themselves out in new green and gold apparel, ensuring they could represent Piedmont long after the weekend concluded.

Family Day is always a great celebration on campus, but this version was truly a beautiful intersection of family devotion and lifelong Piedmont pride.





Piedmont University's Giving Day is set for Tuesday, November 10, and this year we're shining a spotlight on the **power of scholarships to change students' lives.**

Areas of highest need are **Business, Criminal Justice, Forensic Science, Art, Theatre, Athletic Training, and Biology**—helping talented students overcome financial barriers and pursue their dreams. **Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference.**

When you give, you are investing directly in the next generation of business leaders, justice professionals, artists, performers, scientists, and healthcare innovators.

Plan now to join the Piedmont community on November 10 and help open the door to opportunity for a student.

The Addams Family MUSICAL

OCT. 29 -
NOV. 1, 2026



Thursday - Saturday, October 29-31 at 7:30 PM
Sunday, November 1 at 2:00 PM
Swanson Mainstage Theater



\$10 Adults, \$5 Seniors and Students, Piedmont Faculty, Staff, and Students are Free. Scan the QR code or call the Box Office at 706-778-8500 x1355 to purchase tickets.



Calendar of Events

OCTOBER

10/29-11/1 Theatre: The Addams Family Musical

NOVEMBER

11/10 Piedmont University Chamber Ensembles

11/12 Piedmont University Singers

11/17 Piedmont University String Orchestra

11/19 Piedmont University Wind Ensemble

11/20 Admissions Open House

DECEMBER

12/4-5 38th Annual Lessons and Carols

12/11 Fall Commencement

JANUARY

1/9 Basketball Alumni Day

1/14 Fine Arts College Experience (FACE)

1/31 Jeri-Mae G. Astolfi, Piano

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



ANNUAL GIFTS of \$1,000 OR MORE
1/1/2026-10/20/2026

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.

Thank You

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