

THE

ROAR

SPRING 2022





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During Piedmont's snow day, students documented several photos capturing how the campus looked and what they did.

PHOTO// Leo Galarza

LETTERS *from the* EDITORS

Dear reader,

The Roar is so much more than just student news. Yes, The Roar will always report our student news with pride, but we hope to bring a spotlight to the other aspects of The Roar. We have such amazing talent throughout the department, and campus as a whole, that should be highlighted campus wide, just like this magazine.

No matter which facet of The Roar you turn to, one thing will remain the same. We will always represent the student body of Piedmont University. Whether you are tuning in live to WPCZ, flipping through the pages of the Yonahian or listening to the newest episode of 'What the Mont?', you can be sure we always have the student body in our best interest.

Even though this is our first publication in 2022, we've been uploading articles daily on our website. If you ever want to read about the most recent Piedmont news, student opinions, sports highlights, arts & entertainment around campus or feature stories about the Piedmont community, that will always be online.

Roar Student Media is by, and for, the students of Piedmont University.

Sincerely,
Emma Marti, *Editor-in-Chief*



Hi Lions!

My name is Hannah Osborne and I am the Managing Editor for The Roar. I am a mass communications major with a minor in theatre arts. As the Managing Editor, I serve as the right hand for our Editor-in-Chief, Emma Marti. In the past, I have been a staff writer. I came to my first meeting in my second semester, but it did not quite stick until this past semester. Since last semester I have loved reporting for The Roar. Along with writing, I love the creative process of photojournalism and video journalism.

This second issue has faced many setbacks, but we are all eager for it to be in the hands of our community. I am so excited for all of you to have another magazine copy of The Roar in your hands to get all of your Piedmont news and see all of the staff's hard work.

Sincerely,
Hannah Osborne, *Managing Editor*



Hello Piedmont Family,

I am Brett Loftis, The Roar Magazine Editor for the 2021-22 academic school year. I am a senior here at Piedmont University and will be graduating in the spring of 2022. This is my third year on The Roar staff. My previous roles have been staff writer and as the sports editor.

First things first, I know things look a lot different this year for The Roar. As for The Roar Newspaper, that content will be posted online at piedmontroar.com. Online content will consist more of up to date and timely articles. The website will be updated daily with new content. The Roar Magazine will be published once a semester. The magazine will contain features and other articles about your peers at Piedmont as a whole. The Piedmont University Family deserves to have a student-led voice that represents each and every one of us. This is how The Roar Website and Magazine will work together hand in hand doing this for the future. We want you to be represented but also have something to represent your time here at Piedmont.

With that being said, thank you so much for picking up this edition of The Roar Magazine and enjoy!

Sincerely,
Brett Loftis, *Magazine Editor*



Hello readers!

My name is Matt Kodrowski, the Online Editor for The Roar. I am a sophomore Mass and Sports Communications major and Religion minor. I am part of a lot of student organizations on campus, including Climbing Club, MARS Club, Debate Team and -of course- The Roar, just to name a few. This is my fourth semester at Piedmont University and my third semester officially with The Roar staff. When I first joined, I was a contributing writer. Then I was assigned as the Opinions Editor in Fall 2021.

As the Online Editor, I am in charge of making sure that articles are posted online in a timely manner. Our articles are written by staff/contributing writers and editors, then the articles send me the articles for me to give a final review before posting them on our website. I try to make sure that our writers have the chance to express their voices in their writing for everyone to see.

I hope you can always look to us if you want to lend your own voice or hear the voices of others because that's why we are here. We are the student-run voice of Piedmont University and the medium for making that voice heard. We hope you enjoy looking into every piece we post!

Sincerely,
Matt Kodrowski, *Online Editor*



THE

ROAR

CAMPUS REPORTING

—WITH PRIDE—

WALK TWO MOONS

Piedmont University's Theater Department performed Sharon Creech's Newbery Medal winning play "Walk Two Moons." Two tales are combined into one to create a story of love and loss. The show was performed in the Black Box Theater to give an audience a more compelling, up-close experience.

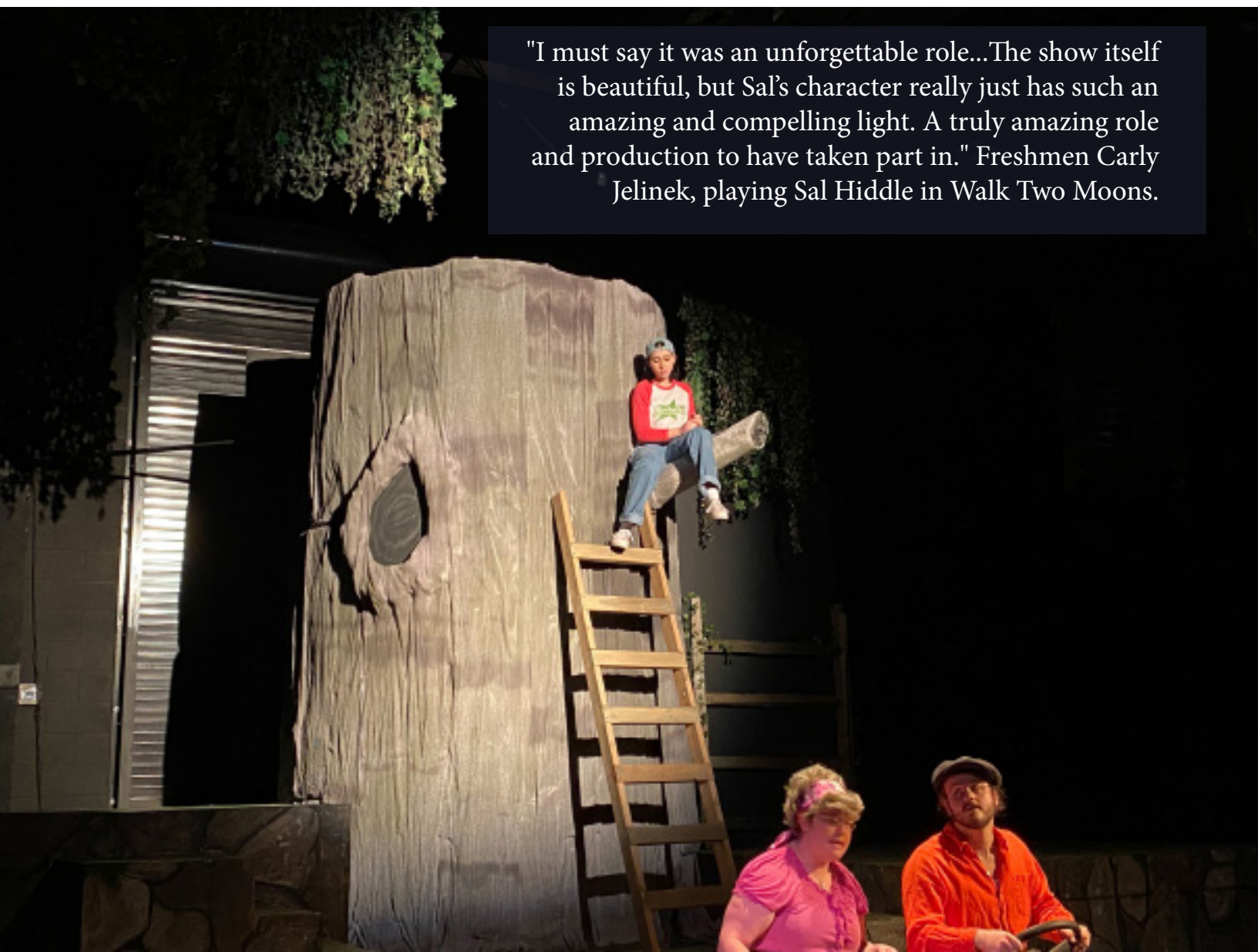
PHOTOS// Hannah Osborne





PHOTOS// Hannah Osborne

"I must say it was an unforgettable role...The show itself is beautiful, but Sal's character really just has such an amazing and compelling light. A truly amazing role and production to have taken part in." Freshmen Carly Jelinek, playing Sal Hiddle in Walk Two Moons.



RANTS ON ROMANCE

Jaela Dodson, Features Editor
February 1, 2022

Exploring romance itself can be a good or bad experience depending on your personal history and beliefs. In an era dedicated to digital media, expressing romance satisfaction and dissatisfaction can be even more confusing.

Have you ever considered how important a like, a share, a comment, or even a caption serves? What about a direct message or posting a simple picture? Rants on Romance seeks to uncover these many ways young adults express themselves through social media.

Social media has become the main outlet of communication among young adults. Young adults collectively adopt a communication style when expressing relationship dissatisfaction via social media. College adults specifically, use social media to convey the details of their relationship.

Rants on Romance is a podcast series and blog about all the things that matter on social media in regards to relationships today. Every week a new blog is posted covering various topics regarding social media's role in romantic relationships. The blog gives readers a chance to think and reconsider their own interactions with social media concerning the topic point.

"Relationships now don't last because of social media," said senior nursing major Brena Diaz. "The whole liking, commenting, dming and all the apps available has changed the way we comprehend and interact in relationships. It's not talked about enough how our generation has really changed how relationships operate."

In conjunction with the blog, a new podcast is released weekly featuring different college students discussing different topics. While the blog focuses on the facts, the podcast allows students to chime in, voicing their opinions on how they agree or disagree to express relationships on social media.

"Now that we're actually talking about it, I never knew how much emphasis we put on such irrelevant things on social media," said freshman business marketing major Jia Weathersby.

Social media has a powerful influence on the beliefs, attitudes and behaviors of users. Some believe digital media has a negative impact on relationships, while others claim social media enhances relationships. No matter the view, social media has become a part of our everyday lives and relationships.

New topics of Rants on Romance are available every week on Friday at 5 p.m. Blogs are accessible on wordpress @jdodmedia.wordpress.com and podcasts accessible on jdodmedia.wixsite.com. To keep up and get updates about new Rants on Romance topics, follow @jdodmedia on Instagram.



BRETT LOFTIS & KAITLYN HOUSE

While most people like the idea of falling in love, a relationship requires a lot of time and effort. No matter the uncertainties of everyday life and distance apart, senior Brett Loftis and junior Kaitlyn House have made the time and the effort to focus on the things that matter.

Loftis and House met through mutual friends in the fall of 2020. Immediately, the two connected and became close friends, eventually progressing into a relationship. Despite only being together a year, the two know their connection is made to last forever.

"She's literally my best friend. Being with her is my favorite place to be, and I'm so thankful for the joy she brings to my life," said Loftis.

Loftis currently serves as the voice of Piedmont, being the play-by-play announcer for men's and women's soccer, basketball, baseball, and softball. His slogan — "Where else would you rather be?" — has become a famous catchphrase on campus. Loftis' passion for sports broadcasting has guided him into numerous opportunities such as an internship with Golden Isles Broadcasting in Brunswick, GA.

During the summer, while not at Piedmont, Loftis and House are four hours away from one another, making face-to-face communication tricky. After graduation in May 2022, Loftis will be moving to Wisconsin to be the play-by-play broadcaster for the Rapids Rafter's Baseball organization in Wisconsin. The couple will soon be 13 hours away as House continues her final year of college beginning fall of 2022-2023. However, the long distance does not scare neither Loftis nor House. The two both feel their relationship will remain unsevered as they use a different form of communication.

"We talk as much as possible, but nothing is better than being with each other," said House. "Sometimes being able to support each other through social media helps us feel closer being so far apart."

College students account for a large demographic of long-distance couples and social media users. College students in long-distance relationships may use social media to help stay connected to fulfill being

far apart. Social media apps, like Snapchat, have become an excellent way for couples to maintain closeness by keeping tabs on each other's day-to-day activities. Some individuals in long-distance relationships may post achievements or regular photos and their partner will repost, comment, or like the post in support to show they're connected. As long-distance relationships become more common, social media becomes an increasingly valuable role in strengthening or damaging relationships.

Loftis and House plan to continue communicating more through text message, Facetime, and social media when Loftis moves to Wisconsin. Mediated communication becomes a vital maintenance tool for long-distance couples attempting to maintain their relationship. Long distance relationships entail sacrifices, but the benefits of their relationship outweigh the costs. Participants in long-distance intimate relationships report higher levels of satisfaction, more positive reminiscences about their partner, and improved communication quality than those in close-proximity relationships.

Following House's graduation in Spring 2023, the couple plans to get married and continue their future together. Because the two thrive on traditional quality time over mediated communication, Loftis and House feel their relationship will remain solid and meaningful with the help of technology and social media.



PHOTO// Brett Loftis



JADON GONZALES & EDITH GONZALEZ

Before social media, relationships were relatively private. The details of a couples relationship was kept only between the two individuals. One of the most important aspects of a relationship is privacy. Contrary to the past, some couples today use their online profile to publicly express their romantic relationship.

Jadon Gonzales and Edith Gonzalez met in the fall semester of 2021. The two lived across the hall from one another in Purcell, but did not speak that often. A common gesture in Purcell at the time was leaving your door open to converse with people passing by. Eventually, Edith stopped by and had a conversation with Jadon. The pair then became close friends which eventually lead to their romantic relationship.

Some of the major platforms used among college students are Snapchat, Instagram, and Facebook. All three of these social platforms include a “private story” feature, an appealing factory for young adults. The private story feature is intended to share what you're doing with a select group of people rather than everyone on your page.

“I have a lot of interesting family members I’m connected with on social media. I have a private story on instagram but it’s not necessarily private, more for just friends,” said freshman Edith Gonzalez.

It’s exciting to take photos and share snippets of your relationship with friends and followers online. Social platforms are a great way to keep friends and family updated on what’s happening in your life. However, social media can also confuse and complicate love. The constant opinions of friends and family online can doubt the quality or satisfaction of a relationship. Keeping a relationship offline allows couples to live in the moment and not focus on if what they’re doing is flawless enough to share online. Social media has the power to connect and inform but if used incorrectly, invades privacy.

Keeping your relationship private does not mean you never talk about or share about it. Choosing to keep your relationship off social media means valuing the

intimacy between one another. Jadon and Edith specifically choose who they want to keep in the know about

their relationship with their private stories. The couple refers to their relationship as “private but not a secret” online and offline. The two enjoy sharing aspects of their relationship, but only in a private circle with individuals of their choosing.

“I don’t necessarily agree with putting your relationship business online,” said freshman Jadon Gonzales. “I feel like it’s almost disrespectful to your partner and basically clowning them.”

“The way we view our relationship is private but not a secret. We’re okay with people knowing about our relationship but we control who knows and what we allow them to know,” said Edith.

The lives and relationships of young adults today are strongly connected to social media. Social media acts as an online portfolio for lives and relationships. Users can share their personality, emotions, memories, or experiences for anyone to see. Social media can be a valuable way to stay connected with friends and family. However, the nature of relationships continues to change with the growth of social media.

Behind the scenes of their private stories, Jadon and Edith genuinely enjoy spending time watching TV together. For the couple, watching tv is a cherished time together no one knows about (even their friends online). Jadon, who is not a big fan of Harry Potter, will watch the series with Edith just because he enjoys spending time with her. The couple also enjoys trying out new places to eat and just talking with one another. No matter how much the two choose to share online, the most cherished time the couple spends together is laughing.



PHOTO// Edith Gonzalez

DARIUS SMITH & SAM SEYMOUR

According to Pew Research Center (2015) 45% of college students say they use social media to show how much they care about their partner and relationship. Posting photos with your partner helps validate the relationship, but senior Darius Smith and sophomore Sam Seymour don't feel it's necessary to prove you love them.

Smith and Seymour met in a program during the summer of 2020. Eventually, the two started hanging out and became close friends in a friend group. As the friend group separated, Smith and Seymour drifted closer together and began dating over the winter break of 2020.

"Our connection is like no other because of the friendship we had before we started dating," said Smith.

Smith and Seymour are members of the Piedmont track team and work together on campus at the rock wall in the Student Commons. Aside from running and working together, the couple spends lunch and dinner together and attempts to go on dates as often as possible. The couple's favorite activities to do together are cook, rock climb, and watch tv. Spending almost every second of every day together it is uncommon to see one without the other.

Even though the two spend a great deal of time together, phone time on social media does get in between. According to PsychCentral.com, the average college student spends between eight and 10 hours on their phone. Smith and Seymour don't use social platforms to express the details of their relationship. Instead, the two use social networking for entertainment, to communicate with one another, and sometimes others online. Influencers on apps like TikTok and Instagram help viewers with suggestions of places to eat, travel, and activities to do which Smith and Seymour utilize.

"Throughout the day, we send each other Tik Toks of stuff we want to do or foods we want to cook together," said Seymour.

Posting on social media is not a large part of Smith

and Seymour's relationship but is still a part of it. Some individuals post their relationships online to signal to others they're off the market. Rather than posting to keep up with and gain societal approval,

Seymour notes she posts specifically for Smith to see and comment on and brag to followers on her page.

"Sometimes when I post, I just feel really cute and confident, and it's more to brag to other people I have a man, so you can't have me," said Seymour.

When you include a significant other in a post, it increases feelings of intimacy and satisfaction. When a partner sees the post, it could help the relationship if the post is seen as embracing and inclusive. A commonality for posting a photo with a significant other is to ward off others who might try to come in between. On the other hand, some individuals believe postings and tagging your partner is unhealthy codependency. People who engage in these common types of social media relationship displays tend to be more satisfied with their relationship. Affirmed by Pew Research Center, 45% of social media users in committed relationships say social networking sites have had a negative impact on their relationship due to debates regarding posting each other. Sharing glimpses of the joy in your relationship on social platforms is not a problem. Ultimately, when deciding whether to post or not to post your partner, couples should consider who and why they are posting to prevent overdoing it.



PHOTO// Samantha Seymour

ERNESTO PLATAS & BRIGETTE BILDERBACK

Living in the digital age it is not uncommon for college students to hide behind a phone. The digital age has drastically changed how everyone communicates with each other. Asking someone out on a date nowadays is too overwhelming and straight forward. So what's the new guide to dating?

Senior Ernesto Platas and sophomore Brigitte Bilderback met in study hall in the Student Success Center (Lane Hall) fall of 2020. Platas initially noticed Bilderback leaving Purcell while he was walking to soccer practice. When Platas first saw Bilderback, he simply just wanted her name. It was when Bilderback crossed paths with Platas again that he wanted to know more about her. Trying to figure out who this new girl was, Platas had his "wingman" approach and invite Bilderback to a party he was hosting that weekend.

"That's my best friend right there. Since that party I knew I wanted to get to know her more. My favorite thing about her is her voice, sometimes I call her just to hear her voice; it's beautiful," said Ernesto Platas.

A common use for social media is investigating things you want to know about a person. It has become normal to do research through social media before going out with someone. Investigating through social media is fairly easy to do because of the content young adults interact with. A person's social media bio and their posts can tell you a significant amount about them including their relationship status.

"He doesn't have instagram, but he used his friend's page to track down my mine," said Bilderback.

Platas put into context, "I was trying to make sure she looked good. She looked cute but I needed to find out if she was single or not."

The popular social network, Snapchat, is becoming a core communication outlet for young adults. The ability to continuously swipe from photo sharing to chat increases the potential of communication. The feature of "story sharing" offers a glimpse into what someone is doing without having to directly communicate with that person. Many agree Snapchat

is a more casual way of communicating and offers more things regular texting does not.

"We didn't even have each other's number. I didn't even get his number until we were already official for about three weeks," said Bilderback.

"We basically only snapchatted or texted through Snap during the start of our relationship."

College students, according to Insider.com, believe giving out a phone number is too personal. Snapchat has become the basis of getting to know if you like a person or not before asking for a phone number. The main reason young adults use Snapchat is because of its convenience. The ability to interchange the chat feature and the photo sharing feature is enjoyable for college students. If a message is too long to fit on the screen, the chat function allows the user to slide over to chat and finish the message. With story features, young adults enjoy updating their followers with the latest happenings in their life. For couples, posting each other on their story is sometimes considered "the big reveal" of their relationship.

"My close friends that I talk to everyday knew about him. I posted Ernesto on my story and all my friends from back home slid up asking who he was and when it happened," said Bilderback.

As Platas graduates in Spring of 2022, the couple is looking to plan their future together. Platas is looking for job opportunities in Texas but is unsteady about being so far away from Bilderback. However, the couple feels that their relationship is strong enough to make it. After Bilderback graduates, the pair wishes to get married, move to an area with lots of land and animals, have kids and continue their lives together.



PHOTO//Brigitte Bilderback



Aramis (Hunter Reum), D'Artagnan (Garrett Smith), Athos (Carson Letner) and Porthos (understudy Dom Fox) during the final dress rehearsal of Piedmont University's production of *The Three Musketeers*. The show ran from Feb. 17-20 at the Swanson Center Main Stage. PHOTO // Rowan Edmonds.

ALL FOR ONE — *and* — ONE FOR ALL

Rowan Edmonds, Arts & Entertainment Editor

“All For One and One for All” is a saying almost everyone has heard of before from the story *The Three Musketeers*, and it was brought to the stage this weekend by The Piedmont University Theatre Department. This hilarious remake of the swashbuckling classic keeps the audience engaged throughout the entire time. It was easy to follow along and had a little bit of everything for everyone's enjoyment.

The story follows D'Artagnan, played by Garrett Smith, who travels to Paris to become a Three Musketeer. His sister Sabine, played by Lexie Partain, joins him to go to Paris; however, she later decides she would rather fight by her brother's side. After a troublesome start in his new home, he develops friendships with the other musketeers, Aramis, Athos and Porthos, respectively played by Hunter Reum, Carson Letner and understudy Dom Fox. They all work together to undermine Cardinal Richelieu, played by Jordan Hicks. From love to loss, betrayal and plot twists, this play is a true story of heroism and is sure to keep you on the edge of your seat the entire time. The ending is pretty straightforward, leaving the audience satisfied and in a good mood.

The performance done by the four Musketeers was incredible. The chemistry and brotherhood displayed made the play even more engrossing than it already was. One standout performance was Jordan Hicks. He portrayed the perfect villain, and his acting skills were unmatched. In this performance, he was the perfect embodiment of an evil, corrupt man.

Audiences knew it was taking place in the early 1600s. The set is a beautiful piece made to resemble a castle. It worked as the perfect backdrop for every scene with different exits and entrances. Each actor was well-spoken, and the storyline was easy to follow. The atmosphere expertly changed with every scene. The actors and crew did everything to ensure the desired mood was always there.

The Three Musketeers was an outstanding play with love, betrayal, humor and action. The space is suitable for all audiences and satisfies everyone after a happy ending. The Piedmont University Theatre department has put on yet another fantastic play, and I highly recommend you see it.

EMBRACE BEING *DIFFERENT*

Caden Nelms, Opinions Editor

Being called “different” seems to always have a negative connotation tied to it. Why? Is it because people think that they will be outcasted if they embrace their differences? Is it because people want to feel like they identify with everyone else?

As cliché as it sounds, everyone is unique in their own way. Many of us hear that growing up, but we don't actually incorporate it into our own lives. Instead, we hide our differences and judge others that embrace their differences. Then, in return, those people start to hide their uniqueness to fit in with the crowd. As we continue to get older, still suppressing our differences, we become comfortable not being our true selves.

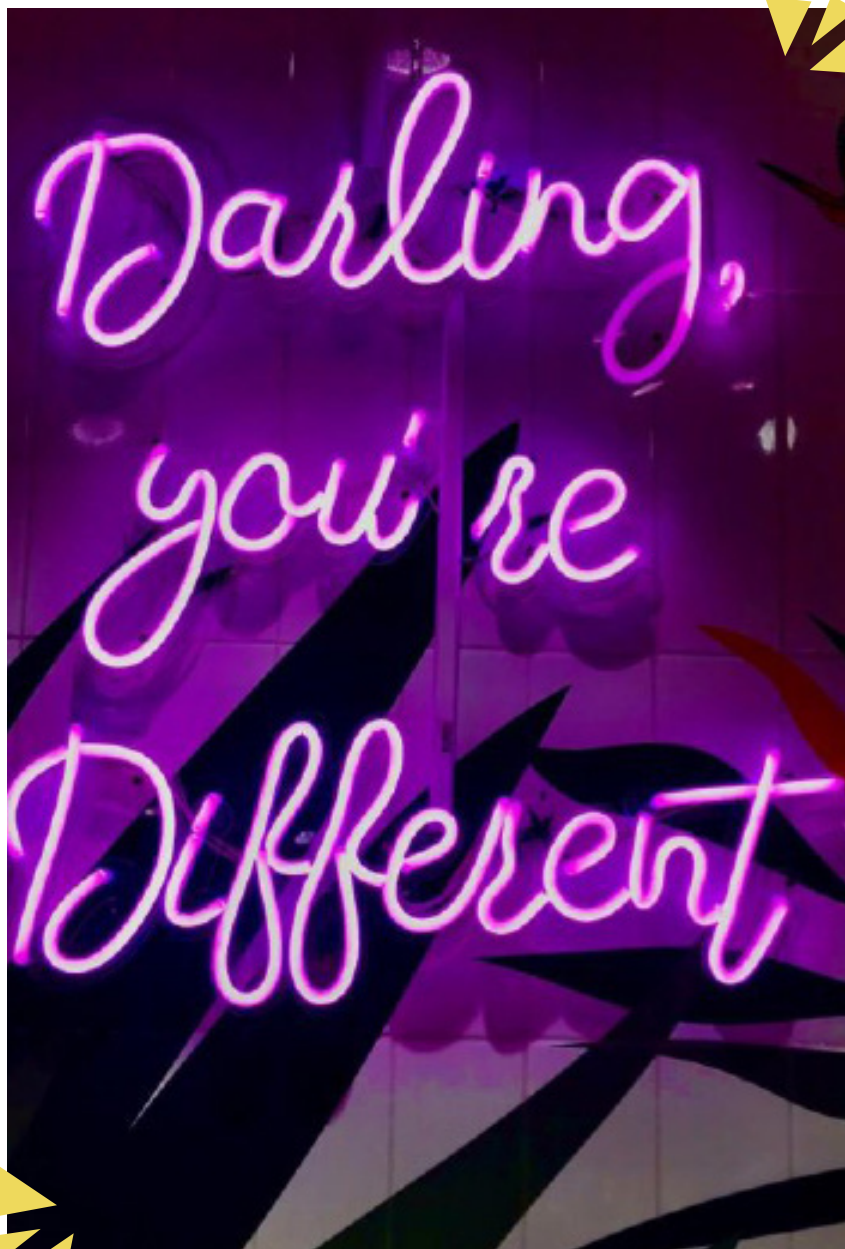
For me, I suppressed these differences until it

started affecting my mental health. Eventually, I had to embrace my differences. For me, it was my disability. It was impossible to hide, but I definitely tried to avoid talking about it or accepting it for as long as I could. It took graduating high school,

coming to Piedmont, being exposed to a diverse community and learning what mental health was before truly accepting my disability. Just because I accepted it doesn't mean that I don't still struggle with being open about my differences, but it is a lot simpler than it was less than three years ago.

I don't tell everyone my struggles to seek pity, but rather encourage others to feel comfortable with their differences. I promise that if you quit hiding your true, amazing self, you will become so much happier and feel free. Be

your unique self and you will find people that relate to you!



PHOTO// Varvara Grabova in Unsplash

2022 *Symposium Preview*

Matthew Kodrowski, Online Managing Editor

This year's Piedmont Symposium is almost set as the last few entries are accepted.

"The Symposium is possible because of the work of the entire committee as well as the support from the faculty/staff encouraging their students to submit their work to Symposium," says Julia Schmitz, chair of the Symposium Committee.


Piedmont's annual Symposium is one of the campus's biggest events. With it, comes a lot of promise for the students and faculty.

"Symposium is a day to celebrate and showcase the excellent research and creative inquiry projects that our students do," says Schmitz. "This is a benefit to the students as it allows the students to showcase the projects that they have worked on for several months or longer. It also is a presentation that a student can put on their CV/resume, and they can talk about the experience at a job interview."

"It is an opportunity for students to showcase their findings from individualized research supervised and supported by our very own intellectual faculty members," says Kim Crawford, member of the Symposium planning committee. "This experience helps students to work collaboratively with a faculty member on a topic they are passionate about in order to expand their knowledge, creativity, and inquiry while giving them a practical experience that will showcase their own research work."

Those who have already applied to present at Symposium have already begun months of preparation. With help from their professors and mentors, what these students produce will be something they can carry on for the rest of their college careers. Not only will the students gain a positive experience from this, the hard work and efforts put in by their professors and departments will also reap benefits as they are showcased by their students.

"This year's Symposium is already shaping up to be an impressive event as the applications come rolling in," says Schmitz. "There will be several live demonstrations, open labs, and explorations along with the presentations and poster sessions. It is always exciting to read through the proposals and learn about all the great work our faculty and staff are doing with their students. We look forward to seeing everyone there!"



One aspect of Symposium is students giving prepared speeches to the audience about the topics they are covering. PHOTO // Matthew Kodrowski.



LOVE OF THE DAWGS RUNS DEEP AT PIEDMONT UNIVERSITY

Brett Loftis, Magazine Managing Editor

2021 was a special year for many people in the state of Georgia. The main reason is that the Georgia Bulldogs football team and the Atlanta Braves were both champions of their sports.

“I was about as happy as I could be as a sports fan when the Dawgs won. There have been so many years where we have come so close,” said UGA Football and Atlanta Braves fan and professor of mass communication, Dr. Dale Van Cantfort. “I have gotten excited in other seasons, so I just kept downplaying this season. In the end, in the fourth quarter, they did what they needed to do to win.”

Dr. Van Cantfort received his Ph.D. from the Grady College of Mass Communication and Journalism from The University of Georgia. On some Saturdays, he can still be found in Athens inside of the hedges. However, there is another Piedmont University professor who has just as strong of love for Georgia Football.

“As a Bulldog fan, I am what I call an old-school, up, or down, Dawg fan. I have been watching them

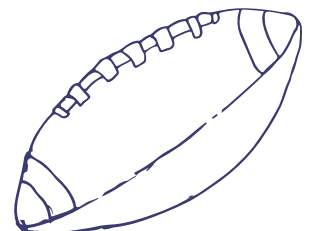
since 1976 with my dad. I remember the Herschel Walker times when everyone was cheering, but I also remember the not-so-good times as well,” said avid Dawg fan and Business Associate Dean, Margaret Ryder. “When you go to the tailgate, it is like going home. You know the people, you know the campus and you know what the day is going to bring.”



After the Dawgs won the National Championship, a parade was held in their honor. Dr. Van Cantfort attended the celebration and this was his view at Sanford Stadium. PHOTO// Dr. Van Cantfort.

There are a lot of lifelong Bulldog fans like Dr. Van Cantfort and Professor Ryder, then there are those like me. I became a Dawg fan during my junior year of high school. However, since then, I have pulled for them like I have been pulling for them from day one. I listen back to the great Larry Munson calls, Herschel Walker's Heisman runs, Todd Gurley's kick returns, Sony Michel's Rose Bowl heroics and now the incredible story of Stetson Bennett.

No matter the level of fandom, the Dawgs championship meant so much to the state of Georgia, but especially to many people at Piedmont University. After 41 years of frustration, and a lifetime for many students who had yet to see UGA hoist up the National Championship trophy, this meant so much to so many.



DIVERSITY DAY— —REVIEW

Christophe Donsereaux, News Editor

There have been a lot of “firsts” this year at Piedmont including this being the first year the school goes by Piedmont University. The University is looking to do everything possible to bring in more students while also trying to acknowledge their current students, as well as staff, for the work they do behind the scenes. Many more events have been planned and it has allowed many people to take notice.

This year’s Diversity Day is also one of the “firsts” to be talked about. There has been so much planning and effort put into the events’ first annual appearance. The event took place Thursday, Feb. 17th, from 10:30 am until 1:30 pm in the student commons on the Demorest Campus of Piedmont University. While the Athens Campus had its own Diversity Day on Tuesday, Feb. 22nd in the lobby of their campus.

“Diversity Day was created by the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council - otherwise known as the DEI - to celebrate the diverse nature of both the Demorest campus and the Athens Campus,” said Bill Gabelhausen, director of events for the DEI Council.

Although nobody has ever had anything like this happen on campus, the DEI Council has been around for a couple of years and is made up of a mix of faculty and students as well. “We have been doing good things as a council, but we were never really visible on campus,” said Gabelhausen. “A couple of members of the council came up with this idea to get our names and faces out there, so people can know that we are there for them as a resource and can help them.”

This event’s main goal is to spread awareness of and celebrate the diverse, inclusive, and equitable environment of both Piedmont Universities campuses. There were many clubs at each event all with this goal

DIVERSITY DAY 2022

Piedmont celebrates diversity. Stop by to learn about the DEI Council, student organizations, and what Piedmont is planning to increase DEI on campus.

Demorest Campus	Athens Campus
THURSDAY, FEB. 17 10:30AM-1:30PM DOWNSTAIRS OF STUDENT COMMONS	TUESDAY, FEB. 22 1:00PM-3:00PM ATHENS LOBBY

Giveaway Items:	Tables:
- T-shirts	- DEI Council
- Stickers	- Pride Alliance
- Pens	- Student Organization of Latinos
- Notebooks	- United in Power
- Cups (two size tumblers)	- Disability Awareness
- Sticky Notes	- Anime Club
- Pledge cards/magnets	- Art Club
- Candy	

PIEDMONT UNIVERSITY **OFFICE of ACCESSIBILITY, RESOURCES & SERVICES** **DEI**
PIEDMONT UNIVERSITY DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION

Diversity Day was celebrated on the Demorest campus on Feb. 17 and on the Athens campus on Feb. 22. Even though it was the first Diversity Day, and certainly won't be the last. PHOTO// Courtesy of Piedmont University.

in mind and to help get information out to the students and faculty that attended. As well as giveaways of T-shirts, notebooks, pens, cups, etc.

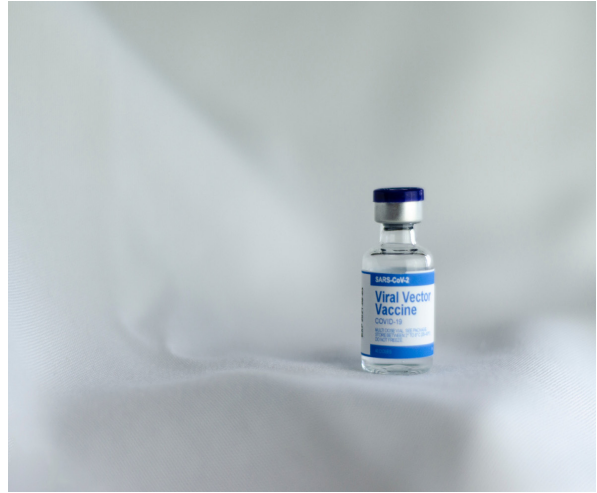
“We want this to be an annual event for a long time,” said Gabelhausen. “This is just an information session; people can drop in visit tables and get all the information they want and even sign pledge cards. This is just allowing everyone to see that we as a council are here for them.”



How COVID-19 Affected My COLLEGE CAREER



PHOTO// Dimitri Karastelev from Unsplash



PHOTO// Spencer Davis from Unsplash

Matthew Kodrowski, Online Editor

The Covid-19 pandemic hit my senior year of high school. As a result, prom was delayed, and then canceled. Our graduation date was moved from May to late July, about two weeks before I would be moving into Piedmont for my first semester. In January of 2021, I contracted the virus over Winter break, and as a result, I was quarantined for 10 days and missed the first week of school. Protection against this virus has evolved from masks and gloves to vaccines. Regardless of the hardships gone through with this pandemic, I would say I've grown a lot. Sure, no one has enjoyed this pandemic, but I think we've all become far more versatile and adaptive than we were before. I feel more prepared to face whatever the world throws my way now, and I credit a lot of that to the work God has done in me over this Covid-19 pandemic.

Emma Marti, Editor in Chief

I remember exactly where I was when COVID-19 hit; I was in my mom's car, driving to Disney. I remember getting the email that Piedmont was adding another week to Spring Break, and that we would be able to return after that. Then, the email came that we would

not be able to return to Piedmont for the 2019-2020 school year at all. I was devastated. Looking back, even though I was devastated, I'm a completely different person then I was. I'm not tone-deaf and won't ignore the lives lost due to the pandemic, but it's important to think about the light at the end of the tunnel, especially during dark times like these. I'm grateful I was able to stay healthy during the pandemic and for the personal growth I've gone through. I'm more confident, more open to change and happier in general.

Samantha Carvallo, Publications Designer

COVID-19 hit my freshman year of college. I was at Myrtle Beach for a track meet that week. My teammates and I were all lying on the beach the day before any competitions began, all sprawled out across the sand and playing in the water. Our coach, Jamie Jimison, had to step away from us to take a phone call from the school's athletic director and the look on his face was combined with concern and sadness. When Jimison had gotten off the phone, he told us this would be our last meet of the season and we were all hit with grief at the same time. After the meet finished, we all received word that we had to pack our essentials and go home to quarantine until further notice. It felt like my freshman year had ended as soon as it started.



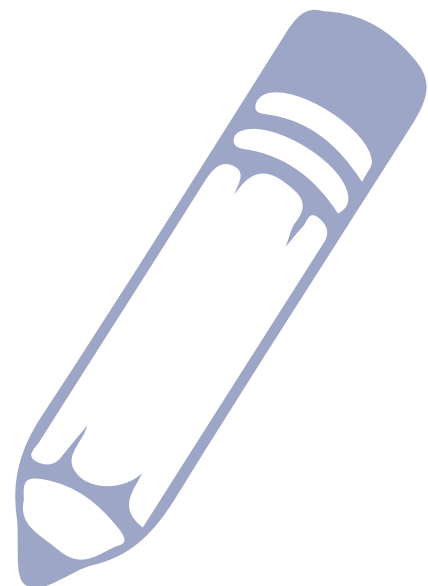
PHOTO// Edwin Hooper from Unsplash

Being away from all of my new friends was challenging but I am grateful my family and I stayed healthy through it all. My work ethic also changed tremendously during the pandemic because I had to adjust to a digital schedule and was strict with myself about getting things done. I can openly say that we all adapted very well during such a difficult time of our lives and I'd like to think that brings us all closer together.

Rowan Edmonds, A&E Editor and Publications Designer

I vividly remember when I first heard of COVID-19. I was on spring break with my family, not a care in the world. My mom was the one who told us that spring break would be extended, and after that she told us we wouldn't be going back. I thought it was overkill at the time, and she kept telling us that we needed to be careful because the world was going to fall apart. I remember laughing at how ridiculous that sounded, there was no way the world was going to fall apart because of a little virus. I was so wrong. On my 19th birthday, March 23, was when we started zoom classes, and it was a huge adjustment to say the least. It was hard to pay attention and get through classes. Time didn't feel real at the time, and I would stay up until six

in the mornings and sleep until three in the afternoon, which wasn't like me at all. I was very thankful for my family for keeping me together at the time. When we came back to school, I was so excited. Even though half of my classes were on zoom, it was very refreshing to be out of the house and on my own again. I loved seeing my friends and my grades were better than ever. Now that things are almost back to normal, it feels strange to look back on the tough times during COVID-19. Everyone went through a lot, myself included, but I am glad to be on the other side of it now.



PIEDMONT UNIVERSITY ***SNOWED IN***



At the beginning of Piedmont's Spring semester of 2022, students had a snow day during their three-day weekend for Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. All of campus was covered in powdery snow which emphasized the beauty our campus has to offer. Students were captured playing together in the snow outside their dorms, some even played football. What a weekend to remember!

PHOTOS// Leo Galarza, Silas Sandles, Joanna Tsismelis



Anthony Jordan: **LEAPING THROUGH ADVERSITY**

Christophe Donsereaux, News Editor

Tragedy, heartbreak and hardships. Student-athletes encounter so much more than people think, life is not all joyful and fun because of the way a person may seem on the outside. After losing his father, Piedmont University's Anthony Jordan encountered such hardship.

Jordan was recruited during both his junior and senior years of high school by previous head track and field director/coach Jeff Jenkins and assistant BT Pham. "When Coach Pham contacted me regarding Piedmont, I immediately became interested because it was the first school in Georgia to reach out to me," said Jordan. "When I talked to them, they really made me feel wanted and valuable to the team, which helped my decision."

Unfortunately for Jordan, what he did not know is that the passing of his father would make him change his mind. "My dad died a month exactly before I graduated high school, which made me want to quit everything — track, school, etc. That's how rough that moment was for me," said Jordan. "My dad always wanted to see me graduate, and he always told me that I was going to be better than him, so getting this degree means so much more."

Another rough thing Jordan dealt with came shortly after his commitment to Piedmont. Coach Pham, who had been recruiting Jordan to come and jump for the school, decided it was time to move on. He left Piedmont to take on a new job at a different college before Anthony even got on campus. "Not having him here after recruiting me was a letdown because he was the coach that got me here and I really wanted to work with him," said Jordan. "At the same time, I had the mentality of just coming here to stay focused and make my dad proud of me."

Since coming to Piedmont as a freshman in fall 2018, Jordan has done just that, helping lead the Lions to two conference championships while also gaining many individual accolades. In the 2019 season, Jordan made two All-Conference teams — second team for the long jump and third team for the triple jump. Jordan also made the USA South All-Sportsmanship Team in 2019.

"I feel like it would make my dad proud because he was always one of my biggest supporters. When I decided to quit football and focus on track, he was my biggest fan and said he'd love me no matter what sport I wanted to play," said Jordan, who is a criminal justice major. "He was a great athlete in high school in Miami so I wanted to do the things he couldn't do collegiately."

Although the 2020 season was cut short due to COVID-19, Jordan broke the school record for the indoor long jump with a mark of 6.82 meters. In the 2021 season, Jordan made three All-Conference teams. First team for the long jump, first team for the triple jump, and first-team for the 400-meter relay. Once again Jordan made the USA South All-Sportsmanship. Jordan has encountered two different coaches since he has been here at Piedmont. Coach Taylor Browning and Coach Remel Williams.

"Coach Browning was a great coach, and his coaching style was something that I was not used to, so I had to get adjusted to being coached that way," said Jordan. "After getting accustomed to the way Coach Browning was coaching, I saw better results in my jumps and sprints."

Coach Williams is heading into her second year as Piedmont's sprint/ jump coach, so she has the best relationship with Jordan than any other coach on the team does.



Anthony Jordan competing in the long jump on day 2 of the USA South Track and Field Championship in Spring 2021.
PHOTO//KARL MOORE

“Ant is a great student-athlete and such a great leader for the younger people on the team, I know I can count on him to help others when I’m not around or busy with other athletes,” said Williams. “Even though he is one of the biggest goofballs I know here, he is also one of the hardest workers and takes accountability for all his actions.”

Williams has high hopes for Jordan this season because of the dedication that Jordan has to make nationals for both indoor and outdoor long jump events. “I know Anthony can make it to nationals, I just need him to go out there and have fun while doing it. Breathe and stay focused during all his events no matter what,” said Williams. “If Anthony can take everything we work on in practice and translate it to every meet we go to this year, there is no doubt he can make it to nationals this year.”

Jordan has done just that at the start of his 2022 track campaign by once again breaking Piedmont’s indoor long jump record. On Saturday, January 23, 2022, at the JDL Flat is Fast track meet Jordan jumped a 7.17m,

which converts to 23-feet and 6.25 inches. This is not only the longest jump of Jordan’s piedmont career but also ranks him eighth national in all of Division III. Jordan looks to get into the field for nationals with this jump and hopes to build on this. “That moment where I found out that the jump was that far, I wanted to cry because I could hear my dad’s voice yelling and telling me how proud he was,” said Jordan. “The look on Coach’s face said it all, if I make it to nationals this would by far be the best year of track in my life.”

Going into what could be his last year of track and field for Piedmont University, Jordan has high hopes for the season and is happy with the decision he made four years ago. “I really came to Piedmont because it’s a small family-oriented college, and I never been a big University type of guy,” said Jordan. “My parents and grandma also loved the environment. Coming here has allowed me to accomplish goals that I know my father would be proud of so I’m glad I came here.”

A New Direction for

FOR CAMPUS REC & WELLNESS

Jaela Dodson, Features Editor

Piedmont University has introduced the new Assistant Director of Student Life this past November 2021. She is a Lilburn native who recently graduated from the University of North Georgia in 2020.

For the past three months, Piedmont's campus recreation and wellness department had fallen under the belt of student life Director Zac Moore following the sudden departure of the previous assistant director, Justin White, in July.



Claire Allinson, the new Director of Campus Recreation and Wellness, was hired in November 2021. PHOTO// JAELO DODSON

Student Life Director Zac Moore, who already oversees numerous organizations on campus, including the Campus Activities Board and Zeta Tau Alpha, was tasked with managing the recreation and wellness portion.

Zac Moore enjoyed supporting the position but says, "I'm not going to lie, some days and weeks were a struggle, but at the end of the day, I would do anything for the students."

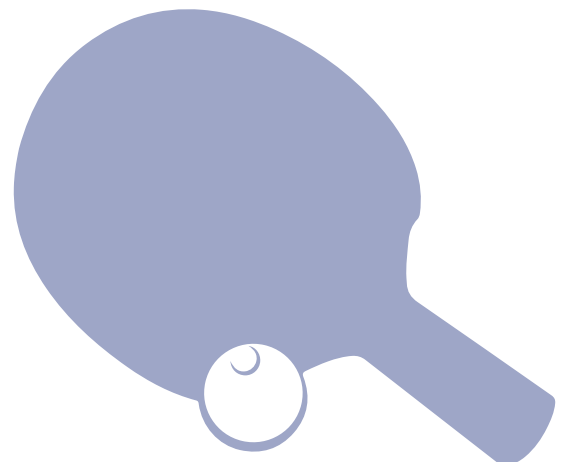
In late fall of 2021, Piedmont introduced the new addition to the Student Life division, Claire Allinson. Following multiple prospects and interviews, Piedmont declared Allinson to be the best fit for the role. Allinson, who recently graduated as a mathematics and accounting major, has much experience in the field of recreation and wellness.

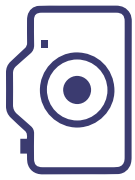
In previous experience, Allinson says, "I worked in the outdoor department at UNG and it was a lot but I really enjoyed working with students and it really helped me on professional development." Allinson expressed she looks forward to planning and working with students again.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, typical campus recreation and wellness events have been cut from the program. These vigorous conditions caused by the pandemic have not distracted Allinson as she still looks to grow and build the program.

Allinson says, "I see us advancing by doing more wellness programming, running more variety of outdoor trips, and getting students involved to try and experience new things."

Transitioning into this role, Allinson strives to create an exciting and inclusive program for all students to enjoy.





Joshua McGowan:

Poor Possibilities/Rich Realizations

Samantha Carvallo, Publications Designer

“Photographic technology has fundamentally changed the way we interact with the natural world,” said Professor Joshua McGowan. He aims to teach his audience that finding his purpose in photography is embedded in what viewers do not actually see within a camera.

McGowan graduated from Piedmont University (formerly Piedmont College) in 2016 with an Undergraduate Degree in Photography. Later he moved to Pennsylvania to receive his Graduate Degree at Temple University and has been teaching students the art of photography and graphics for the last five years. His specialization in Nature Photography has left viewers of his work wondering what exactly he wants to achieve when he takes photos of what nature has to offer.

McGowan’s goal as a photographer is to express how the nature we see around us won’t last. “The world is finite,” McGowan said in an interview. “Taking pictures gives us a false sense of control over what we capture in our lived experiences.”

Something he places emphasis on is that cameras speak through their own language that we don’t entirely understand, especially when technology is constantly changing. “As photographic and other time-based technologies improve, the distinctions between representation and underlying reality become less distinct,” McGowan said. Because we can’t interpret what is actually going on behind our camera lenses, we don’t feel as connected with what is going on around us. Basically, taking a picture is just a push of a button and that’s it. There seems to be no emotional connection with reality.

How do photographers-in-training keep up with these technological advancements? How can they not let it take away from what they aim to capture? McGowan’s knowledge points students in the direction of rediscovering their individual purposes as photographers. “You should understand your purpose and be honest with your intentions when photographing,” he said.

In attempts to reiterate the meaning behind nature photography, McGowan assembled an “emulated continuum device” that expresses his interest in the machinery that lies within a camera. An image is

projected onto the wooden device and the image is reflected off of a plastic mirror onto a blank wall. The mirror is bent from left to right which makes the reflected image appear to be rotating in a continuous motion. His inspiration for this device lies in his commutes by train or car as he was never quite able to depict the scenery he witnessed to a full

extent. The emulated continuum device helps recreate his experience looking outside of a moving vehicle and taking in the nature he would see on his way home.

Professor Joshua McGowan is trying to find different ways to give honest expressions in his photographs while never believing in capturing that so-called “perfect moment.” Understanding that anything beautiful comes with loss leads to a heightened experience for him as a photographer. “Understand the technology you use and express your experiences honestly because every photograph is a lie.”



Professor Joshua McGowan and his emulated continuum device that expresses motion in a unique way. PHOTO// SAMANTHA CARVALLO

Cameron Verona:

Aspiring Professional Athlete

Rowan Edmonds, Arts and Entertainment Editor & Publications Designer

Cameron Verona has known from a young age that he wanted to pursue a career in soccer. He has played his entire life, including in his time at Piedmont University. Verona graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mass Communications in spring 2021. Currently, he works as a soccer coach while also pursuing a professional career as a goalkeeper.

“Playing soccer growing up led me to form a lot of connections across the game,” said Verona. “Those same connections gave me a shot at coaching kids, specifically younger goalkeepers, and this helps me give back to the community that helped me get where I am today.”

Being a professional athlete is incredibly difficult for many different reasons. Not only is it hard to even reach the professional level, but the physical demands are taxing, and it puts a strain on so many professional athletes. Knowing this, Verona has given himself until he is 26 (he is currently 23) to chase his dreams of being a professional goalkeeper, and after that, he wishes to exercise his passion and ability for film work.

“With Atlanta exerting its dominance as the “new Hollywood” there are tons of opportunities and no shortage of jobs available to get a good start in that business,” said Verona. “With my previous experiences in Capstone and other indie projects in tow, I hope I’ll be able to make a good living in the film industry.”

Verona has worked on a few indie projects in the past. Additionally, he wrote, directed and edited his own short film, *Trust*, available on YouTube. Piedmont University has a wonderful mass communications program that helped spur on Verona's love for film, as well as soccer. Without his collegiate experience here, he would not have as many opportunities as he has seen thus far in his soccer career.

“I often refer to Piedmont fondly,” said Verona. “I had the pleasure of working with, in my opinion, the best professors in the field of mass communications that the state of Georgia has to offer. All the professors helped guide me to graduation with the best college experiences attainable in the state; and that’s what my time at Piedmont was.”

Life post-graduation can be scary, and pursuing a professional athletic career can only add to that fear. It is hard to make it as a pro, but Verona strives every day to be the best athlete he can be and having a backup plan for later in life already sets him ahead of many other college graduates.

“Enjoy your time at Piedmont to the fullest. Whatever that means to you. With the education and professional experience gained at Piedmont, you will be ready for whatever job you decide to take on” said Verona. “As my colleague and former classmate, Davis Barlow said on graduation day, ‘I feel bad for those who did not fall in love with Piedmont’”



PHOTO// Cameron Verona

Sydney Schuster:

Life After Piedmont

Rowan Edmonds, Arts and Entertainment Editor & Publications Designer

Following her graduation from Piedmont University, Sydney Schuster hit the ground running. Sydney graduated in spring of 2020 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice and a minor in political science.

Now, she is working as a detention officer in a county jail, while finishing up her master's degree at University of North Georgia.

"I got this position thanks to Professor Bruce Willis and his wife, Katrina. They got in contact with me after I graduated and informed me of a job opportunity," Schuster says.

She was apprehensive at first, turning the offer down so she could just focus on her master's. Schuster began working at an internship that was credited towards her degree and after a year, Schuster made the leap to work part time at the detention facility in July 2021. In the following January she committed to a full-time position.

"It's a difficult balancing act being a full-time student and a full-time worker, however I know in the end it is all worth it," she says.

The transition from college to being in the real world can be terrifying. So many people do not know what they want to do and typically spend a year or two stumbling around until they figure out their long-term plans. However, Schuster seemed to be the exception. She is already working full time and has the next few years planned out.

"In the next few years, I am hoping to become POST certified and become a Deputy Sheriff," said Schuster. "This will allow me to work in the Patrol Division and after some time I'll want to move into an investigative position, also known as the Criminal Investigations

Division."

In five to ten years, Schuster plans on applying to work at Homeland Security and wishes to work within the Countering Transnational Organized Crime Division. Schuster has always maintained an incredible work ethic, and Piedmont, along with its social sciences professors, has helped shape her into the person she is today.

"If you set your mind to something, whether it's a career or just a simple weekly goal, go for it and don't stop until you achieve it," said Schuster. "You are a lot more capable than you realize."



PHOTO// Sydney Schuster

Analee Bradach:

INSIGHT ON BRENAU'S PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM

By Samantha Carvallo and Rowan Edmonds

When most people graduate college, they have a plan in place. Whether it is to get a job or live at home and figure it out, they have some resemblance to what they're doing. For Analee Bradach, it was graduate school. Bradach, a Piedmont University Alumna, was chosen out of 400 applicants to attend Brenau University's Department of Physical Therapy in 2020.

"It is a three-year doctorate program, and nine semesters total between summer, fall, and spring. We spend most of our first two years doing coursework, and the third year will be mostly clinical experience and internships," said Bradach when asked about the graduate program at Brenau. "Halfway through my second year, I have already had a lot of valuable hands-on learning opportunities and community involvement. My professors are very credible, super awesome and genuinely care about making sure they can do everything they can to prepare us for the real world."

Bradach graduated from Piedmont University (formerly Piedmont College) in 2020 with a Bachelor's Degree in Exercise Science. While looking into getting her Doctorate Degree, she had hoped to find a school that would have a similar

family feeling.

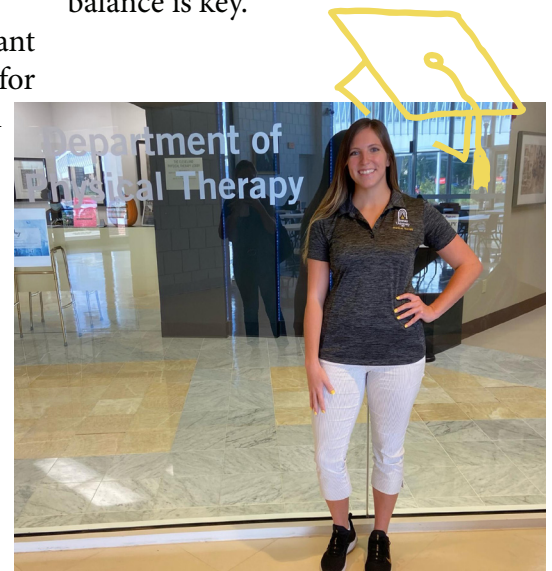
"The family vibe I feel at Brenau is similar to the family vibe I felt with my involvement at Piedmont, which is why I knew it would be the right graduate program for me," said Bradach. "With Piedmont being a smaller institution, I had so many opportunities to be involved that I don't think I would have had at a bigger university, including community and leadership positions."

So far, Bradach has been in one official clinical that lasted six weeks in the fall of 2021. During her first year, she participated in the Early Mobility program and spent between 2-4 hours each week at the Gainesville hospital treating and mobilizing patients out of bed. The hands-on experience Bradach got with patients was crucial to her because developing those skills are what helped her before she went out on her first clinical rotation.

"These experiences are so important for developing the skills we need for our career, including professional and leadership skills as well as physical therapist-specific skills," said Bradach. "I was blessed to have amazing clinical instructors that helped to expand my critical thinking skills, leadership, and my overall confidence in my ability to evaluate and treat patients independently."

Bradach's next two clinicals will be 12 weeks long and will be in fall 2022 and spring 2023. While she is unaware of the location, her professors emphasize getting a well-rounded experience in different settings and locations, with students traveling anywhere between Gainesville and Las Vegas. In the next five to ten years, Bradach hopes to be a successful and reliable clinician working with many different patients and diagnoses.

"Having a lot of job or volunteer experience is important to help build a grad school application that is unique and stands out," said Bradach when asked about advice for younger students. "Grad school is quite the level-up from undergrad and can be extremely exhausting sometimes, and burnout is very real; make sure to take rest days or breaks and still make time for the things you enjoy outside of school, for keeping a healthy balance is key."



PHOTO// Analee Bradach

Erica Clark:

Building a Life at Piedmont University

By Emma Marti, Editor in Chief

Erica Clark graduated from Piedmont University in May of 2021 with an undergraduate degree concentrating in accounting and finance. Clark is currently working on obtaining her Masters of Business Administration from Piedmont as well.

Currently, Clark is interning with Carroll Daniel Construction Company as an accounting intern. She worked part time for this company during her time as an undergraduate student and was asked to come back as a full-time intern while she is working to complete her Masters of Business Administration at Piedmont.

It's important to have goals, no matter what point of life you are in. Clark, much like other people, has personal goals as well as professional goals.

"My personal goal is to be happy and to travel the world," said Clark. "My career goal is to obtain my certified public accounting certification as well as my general contractors license in hopes of remaining in the construction industry."

Going from college into the "real world" is something that most students dread. While Clark is still working for her MBA, she is a member of that "real world" and has dealt with some of the difficult aspects of graduating college.

"My piece of advice for new graduates and those entering the workforce is to embrace being

uncomfortable," said Clark. "The 'real world' and job searches aren't always easy, but try to enjoy the process of starting your career because it is going to teach you so much about yourself. The only way to grow is to push yourself past your comfort zone."

Piedmont offers many amazing resources to students, no matter what path they are on. Students have advisers who help them practically everyday, they have tutors in the Student Success Center and they have

access to career services. Lisa Mann, the Director of Career Services, is someone that Clark recommends students go visit if they need help on their journeys.

In addition to those professional resources Piedmont has to offer, the university has an amazing faculty and staff that will go out of their way to make the students enjoy their time at Piedmont. That amazing faculty and staff, as well as the other things Piedmont has to offer, brings in an amazing student body. All of those things have helped Clark during her time at Piedmont.



PHOTO// Erica Clark

"Piedmont helped me achieve my goals and become who I am today through the intentional relationships and effort that was poured into me, in both my undergraduate and graduate degrees," said Clark. "Piedmont is where I found my family as well as myself. I will forever be grateful to Piedmont for the faculty, students, resources and genuine atmosphere that allowed this small mountain town to become my home over the last five years. As Brett Loftis would say, 'Where else would you rather be?'"

Nahomi Soloranzo

FEATURE

PHOTO//
Nahomi Soloranzo

Emma Marti, Editor in Chief

Everyone at Piedmont University has a unique story, and freshman Nahomi Solorzano is no exception. Currently majoring in psychology with a minor in social justice, and plans to double minor in mass communications, Solorzano's future was never certain.

Leaving Mexico at six months old with her mother, the Solorzano family began their journey to the United States. The decision to cross the border came from Nahomi's father, who decided to move to the United States to make money for a few years. Following her husband, Nahomi's mother took her daughter to the United States.

"We had to actually cross the big wall that everyone talks about, going from America to Mexico," said Solorzano. "We had met up with this American couple that had just recently lost their baby, and I guess they had sympathy towards my mom and that they wanted me to have a better life. They said to my mom, 'You get under the truck, and we're going to hold the baby, we'll pretend it's our baby.'"

After moving around a bit, living in Texas, Utah, Washington and other states, Nahomi's father had chosen Northeast Georgia because there was less of a chance for immigration to go there.

"My dad decided to try and keep it safe and go all the way to Georgia. I kind of just went in a circle because we had different homes until we finally have our home right now. From there on, I wasn't told that I was undocumented," said Solorzano.

Growing up, people are supposed to have a support system. They can get support from their families, friends and, when you are in school, your teachers should be a part of that list. Unfortunately for some people, that is not the case. Middle school is when things hit a new low, though. Solorzano was told that she was going to be a highschool dropout, a teen mother and other degrading things.

"I was going through a lot of mental issues," said Solorzano. "The fact that my own teachers were telling me that kind of stuff, I started to have low self-esteem. Coming to be here in college and actually getting grades that are decent, it's getting that self-esteem back up again."

College was never a guarantee for Solorzano. When she was in high

school, Solorzano began to look for information on college because of two teachers who were encouraging her. Solorzano found Piedmont, and the Dia de la Familia event, which is a recruiting event hosted by Gabriel Gutierrez to inform Spanish-speaking families about college through bi-lingual informative sessions. Another aspect about Piedmont that gave the Solorzanos hope for Nahomi's college career is the close proximity to their home.

"Dia de la Familia gave us a green light that Piedmont was an option, so I started applying to different colleges," said Solorzano. "We were leaning towards Piedmont because of how close it is. My parents don't have to worry what would happen to me, especially if I have to get involved with the police for some reason and I'm in another state. Another reason is because my little sisters don't like it when I'm not here."





PHOTO//
Nahomi Solorzano

Family is incredibly important to Solorzano. Solorzano has family in Mexico, but because she is undocumented, she cannot visit them. Her parents cannot go back and see their family. Because her younger sisters were born in the United States, they are able to travel, but they want to wait until their older sister and parents are able to go with them.

One of the most common responses when it comes to being undocumented is that the person should just “do it the right way” and become a citizen. What most people do not realize is how lengthy of a process this is.

Because the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services department processes applications in order they receive them, they tend to get backed up. Solorzano’s mother applied around 1990-2000, and she still has not gotten a response. Solorzano was going to apply for DACA, or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, when she turned 15 in October, until former President Trump took it away in September.

“When my first semester in college started, they had reopened DACA,” said Solorzano. “We were thinking, ‘Thank whoever’s up there, it’s back on.’ I started applying, I’m the right age, we have all the documents ready. Then on July 16, 2021, I even remember the day because I hate that day, they shut down everything again. Texas had passed a new law, saying that DACA is giving illegal permission to students.”

Currently, Solorzano is still waiting. Even though her case was technically accepted before July 16, she has not heard anything since.

Even though this is a sensitive topic, it’s everyday life for many people. Whether or not you’re going through something like this, you’ve heard it on the news. You’ve seen it on Twitter. One way or another, your life has been touched by one of these stories.

“For the people who are naive, in a way, don’t focus so much on the news,” said Solorzano. “We’re not actually like how a lot of news people portray us. Get information

from people that might understand it more.”

According to the USCIS, there were 590,070 active DACA cases as of June 2021. So many people have stories similar to Solorzano’s. It is important to remember that, even though your culture is a large part of you, you are more than just your status, and Solorzano wants everyone to remember that.

“For people who are going through situations similar to mine, don’t let your status be an obstacle, let it be a motivation,” said Solorzano. “Because I’m undocumented, I have to prove myself and that I can do this because if I let them win, they get the last laugh. That’s what helped me, because I’m proud of where I’m from. I’m proud of being from Mexico.”

MEET THE DESIGNERS



Hey everybody!

My name is Rowan Edmonds, and I am the co-designer of the magazine for The Roar 2021-2022. I am a junior mass communications major and have been a part of The Roar since my sophomore year. I am a very active person and love being outside with my friends. I currently work as a student help desk worker for the mass communications department, and I love it. I can see my friends and get outside of my comfort zone because of all the time I spend in the Swanson building.

For this semester's magazine issue, I am hoping to embody The Roar as a whole. Samantha Carvallo, the other co-designer, and I work as hard as possible to bring every page to life and represent what the writers are trying to say in their articles. I am so excited to see what everybody thinks of the magazine and be a part of this for the 2021-2022 year!

Thanks for reading!

Rowan Edmonds, *Arts and Entertainment Editor & Publications Designer*



Hey Readers!

My name is Samantha Carvallo and I am the co-designer for The Roar for the 2021-2022 school year. I am a junior Graphic Design Major here at Piedmont University and am graduating in the spring of 2023. As a new member to The Roar staff this year, I am so excited to make new friends while also pushing my design skills to their limit working on each magazine with Rowan Edmonds.

For this year's magazine issue, I really want to try to bring each season to life and emphasize its effect on the university's campus and student life. I feel like this will have a great impact on catching our audience's eye while also conveying all the staff member's stories in an informative and beautiful way. Our goal is to give the Piedmont staff and student body the best magazine experience we can offer. I am really looking forward to hearing everyone's feedback on this edition of The Roar magazine and cannot wait to help create more in the future.

Thanks for reading!

Samantha Carvallo, *Publications Designer*



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