

# THE CAMPUS CARRIER

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## Solidarity Week returns for its eighth year



**Lectures and celebrations highlight cultural diversity and social issues**  
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Alyssa Elmore | CAMPUS CARRIER

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# Solidarity Week highlights dignity, celebrates diversity

**Emma Bellantoni**  
*staff writer*

**Nathanael Mooney**  
*staff writer*

Monday kicked off the start of the annual week-long event, Solidarity Week, a student-led project to introduce different perspectives and outlooks on topics surrounding the Berry community. This event highlights differences, educates and allows the community the opportunity to learn from each other.

Junior Mykelle Patterson, the partnership coordinator for Solidarity Week, talked about the struggles of making an impact.

“I think it’s super important because we can acknowledge differences, but it can kind of be hard to follow up with actionable steps,” Patterson said.

One of the goals of Solidarity Week is to get the student body to take steps to honor the dignity of everyone. The week is important to help start and continue conversations within the community. Whether the step is volunteering within Rome or attending a Cultural Event, actionable steps are what Solidarity Week is all about. 2024 is Patterson’s first year working directly on the Solidarity Week staff, but she has volunteered in previous years. This year she is excited to see the effect it has on the student body.

“I’m excited because I do feel like it happens every year in September, and around that time, people seem to be more open to conversations, and maybe going to a CE credit event for Solidarity Week might allow you to continue a conversation with someone in your

class maybe the next week,” Patterson said.

Every Solidarity Week has a central theme that ties all the events together. This year’s theme, chosen by the student board, is dignity. Senior Addison Cook, student director of impact and co-chair of Solidarity Week, emphasizes that dignity is a foundational value of all humans, and realizing this can lead to new points of view.

“I think dignity is just really important in general, but we have defined it as, this fundamental value of all humans independent of their background, beliefs, cultures and actions,” Cook said. “It’s the idea that all humans have value and someone else can’t take that away from you, they can’t give that to you, that’s something you have as a person.”

The week-long event is full of speeches, breakout sessions and celebrations. The week began with a speech from the keynote speaker, Anthony Hinton, a man who spent 30 years on Alabama’s death row for a crime he did not commit. He wrote a book on how he forgave and maintained a sense of dignity for himself and what it looked like for him throughout his life both in and out of prison.

Tuesday and Thursday host the breakout sessions, which are lectures, panels and discussions all being held in the Krannert Ballrooms. Julie McCluskey, assistant director of programming and partnerships for the Office of Belonging and Community Engagement, said she was looking forward to one of the sessions that was held on Tuesday, a speech from Malaka Gharib, a Filipino-Egyptian graphic novelist.

“She’s a first generation Filipino-Egyptian American, and she split her time between

California and Egypt, and so her perspective is really, really fascinating to hear,” McCluskey said. “What it was like growing up in California with her background, and what that meant for her as she grew up and was trying to figure out what her identity was. She is an artist, but she’s not formally trained, so her artwork is interesting to look at.”

Other notable speakers include Mary “Missy” Crowe, an environmental activist, Danielle Coke Balfour of “Oh Happy Dani,” an activist artist, and Bernat Rosner, a Holocaust survivor and author who will be speaking on Thursday.

“[Rosner] lost his entire family during the Holocaust,” McCluskey said. “He was in Auschwitz, and then he moved to the United States, and at one point in his life, he met a man that he worked with who happened to be, I believe, is the son of a Nazi soldier. They became friends, and they wrote a book together called ‘An Uncommon Friendship: From Opposite Sides of the Holocaust.’”

A few of the breakout sessions are partnered with organizations within Floyd County. Cook believes that partners within the community are important to expand knowledge on topics that may not be well known.

“We really tried to think about people that would be impactful, especially for our community, and providing a perspective that might be different,” Cook said.

The session “Human Trafficking & Human Rights: A Call to Action” is partnered with End Slavery Georgia to educate how trafficking is affecting the community around Berry and how to prevent it.

“We have partners in our community that

deal with sex trafficking and human trafficking, and I feel like subjects like that are something you recognize that students might not know about at all,” Cook said. “Before I talked to them, I didn’t even recognize that was a thing in Rome, let alone across the street. People are dealing with this every day, and it’s something that the first time I heard about it, it shocked me, but I was so moved.”

The staff behind Solidarity Week try their best to keep the events fresh and exciting for students and this year, that addition comes in the form of an art-show. The art show and fashion show play the role of celebrations for the community.

Junior Gaile Anasco, student director for programming and co-chair of Solidarity Week, acknowledges that Berry students also have valuable stories and experiences to express and that is why the art show and fashion show are important.

“We want to value students here too,” Anasco said. “Talking about [the] fashion show, we want them to represent themselves and feel confident and in the art show too because they can share their talents throughout that.”

McCluskey hopes that Solidarity Week will fully allow students to engage each other with difficult but important conversations.

“I think conversation is always a good thing, even if the topic is really difficult,” McCluskey said. “I think what I want our students to take with them is that even if the topic is difficult or if there’s a disagreement about certain things. It’s very important to keep continuing it because it helps you in every aspect of your life.”

# Affirmative action ban has little effect on admissions

**James Fox**  
*deputy news editor*

In 2023, the United States Supreme Court overturned affirmative action in college admissions. In this scenario, affirmative action is when schools take one’s race into consideration when deciding who to admit to any given college. This year is the first term in which the new supreme court decision has taken effect; however, it has not affected Berry.

“For your highly selective schools where you’re getting 50,000 applications and you’re trying to choose 1,000 students to enroll, they were often looking for a certain class with a certain makeup and there might be slots for various races or ethnicities,” Vice President of Enrollment Management Andrew Bressette said. “Berry is selective, but we are not in the position where we are trying to pick one student from 50,000 applicants. Our philosophy has been to try and cast a very wide net for students to learn about Berry. We’ve never really considered race or ethnicity in our admissions decisions.”

Berry admissions focuses more on reaching out to a diverse array of students rather than relying on affirmative action.

“A lot of our work in the past four or five years has been around actually going and meeting students in places where there is a lot of diversity,” Bressette said. “We’re lucky Georgia is a state where the graduating high school population is fairly diverse. Berry was known as a welcoming place for a lot of

students of color. On the admissions side, it’s been a lot of work to try and introduce Berry to places where we weren’t known, getting [students] to come visit campus, getting them to apply coupled with the work that’s happening on campus to ensure this is a welcoming community.”

Unlike other schools, Berry applicants that identify as students of color have increased in the year after the Supreme Court ruling.

“Our applications from students of color are up this year,” Bressette said. “Our admits are up this year, and our incoming class has the highest percentage of students of color we’ve ever had at Berry.”

Outside of Berry the removal of affirmative action has affected students and become a rather polarizing issue. Eric Sands, associate professor of political science, further explained the role of affirmative action in higher education.

“We think affirmative action has resulted in a higher representation of communities, races, all those kinds of things to be represented in higher education,” Sands said. “The presumption is that without affirmative action a lot of these groups wouldn’t be able to get into various schools. We believe that with bringing in more minorities, you add to a more rich, a more diverse student body so that students are getting exposed to more perspectives.”

On the other hand, affirmative action, by choosing students purely based on race, can be seen as creating a signaling

out effect.

“I think it’s likely that affirmative action has opened the doors to more minorities than would have otherwise been the case,” Sands said. “But I’m always mindful that we don’t want to create a system that encourages some people to think that they couldn’t get in here if it weren’t for their race. It results in a kind of stigma that you didn’t really earn it, but they only let you in because you’re black or you’re Hispanic or something like that. I don’t think that’s going on very much these days, but you can’t entirely know what embeds itself in people’s minds.”

There is a possible alternative moving forward that could prove to still benefit underrepresented students. The Supreme Court’s ruling opposed admission on the basis of race, but not economic status, which opens a new door for admissions in higher education.

“There [is some wiggle room] that admissions directors can still utilize to take race into consideration,” Sands said. “You can’t do affirmative action on the basis of race anymore, but that doesn’t mean you can’t do affirmative action on the basis of economics, which a lot of people point to as a possible solution to this. What we’d be doing is helping students from all disadvantaged backgrounds and using affirmative action policies to give them a step up in the admissions process since they probably didn’t go to private schools, they probably didn’t have SAT tutors, they probably didn’t have [college] application advisors and all these other things privileged kids get to have.”

# Berry Police bolsters shooting training, security

**Eric Zuniga**  
news editor

**Anna Gorman**  
staff writer

With many concerned about school safety after the recent shooting at Apalachee High School in Winder, Ga., the Berry College Police Department (BCPD) is promoting its active shooter response training and continuing its efforts to make campus more secure.

According to Berry College Police Chief Ryan Chesley, all Berry police officers receive intensive active shooter response training.

“Our officers are in that as often as we can get them into some sort of active shooter response training,” Chesley said. “Some of them have been through sort of like a multidisciplinary approach training that combines emergency medical service, law enforcement response, even communication center training, so they can get a more holistic operational exposure.”

BCPD also facilitates shooting response training for members of the Berry community. Any group on campus can request the training, which is meant to prepare participants to think and react quickly in an active shooter event.

“The most important thing about these trainings is just generating dialogue — period — because one of things we know is that the more we have conversations about a topic, the more people engage in it mentally, the more situationally aware people become of their surroundings,” Chesley said. “We know that that assists any sort of response or reactive actions on the part of the person because they have had time to pre-think that.”

Chesley said that the department is making more concerted efforts to target its training to different departments on campus.

“What we have done more recently is to go more local with our training opportunities,” Chesley said. “We’ve tried to solicit that and offer that training to departments, or geographical areas on campus — maybe an office suite or a department that lives in a certain space — because it allows us to address

particular safety concerns.”

According to Chesley, 23 different groups participated in the training last year, including Krannert night staff, Oak Hill staff and the animal science and nursing departments. Interest in the session changes depending on current events.

“We’ve been doing [the training] for about a decade or longer, so it isn’t a new program, but like a lot of things, interest in that program sort of cycles,” Chesley said. “Right now, I can tell you, there’s an enormous interest in active shooter training, and that’s because of the things that are going on locally and nationwide.”

Resident assistants (RA) participate in the shooting response sessions as part of their job training.

“The reason we focus on RAs is because they’re in residence halls, and if that happens, typically that’s going to be one of the areas of target outside of academic buildings,” Dean of Students Lindsey Taylor said.

Sophomore Emma Courtney, an RA in West Mary, said all RAs were given training over the summer two weeks before the semester began. Floyd County police and BCPD showed them videos of active shooter drills and simulations of how police would respond to an active shooter threat. RAs were then walked through the steps to take if there was an active shooter on campus. They were also taught how to stop bleeding.

“I feel like they presented the material in a way that made it not so scary, but at the same time it’s a heavy topic, so there was a weight to it,” Courtney said. “I think the way they presented the information helped. I don’t want to say it dumbed it down, because that was definitely not what it did, but it helped make it easier to talk about.”

Chesley encouraged students to reach out to the police department if they are interested in receiving the training.

In addition to training, all faculty and staff are given a folder containing information on emergency response, evacuation procedures and active shooter protocols.

Though both Taylor and Chesley encourage this training, specific details about BCPD’s response plan are confidential.

“Oftentimes, active shooters are part of the community,” Taylor said. “What [we are] never going to share is the full plan of how to respond, because if you share a full plan of what is in place then, more likely than not, the shooter knows.”

Berry’s extensive security infrastructure further protects the college from active shooter events. BCPD oversees managing and manning the safety technologies used around campus, such as the camera systems, license plate recognition, driver’s license, student ID scanning and physical access control, that together create a “layered security approach,” according to Chesley.

“No single system is fail-safe, and no single system in and of itself is adequate, but the goal here is just create layers of security,” Chesley said. “Berry’s extremely fortunate in that we have fairly proscriptive entry and exit points.”

This summer, BCPD began installing cameras in parking lots around campus and is now finishing upgrades to its physical access system. The department is looking into deploying near field communications (NFC), short-range contactless communication between devices such as phones and tablets. The technology is used for mobile payments and access control in buildings.

Chesley said that the new camera technology can allow first responders to address an emergency more quickly.

“If we were aware of a threat coming into campus, we have the ability to enter a tag number or a driver’s license number to provide us some alert and some earlier indication,” Chesley said. “You can’t solely rely on those technologies but having them in place is just one more tool at our disposal.”

Taylor stressed that, despite technology improving, it is imperative students stay alert for any unusual activity.

“If there’s anything I want students to know, if you see something, say something,” Taylor said. “It can happen anywhere. So, know where exits are, you know? And I don’t want anyone to live in a state of fear, but it’s just being aware of your surroundings.”

According to a report in the New York Times, the suspect in the Winder shooting — a student at Apalachee High School — was investigated by the FBI and local authorities for threats he made more than a year before the tragedy. Taylor said that Berry constantly monitors social media for threats and has procedures for addressing tips about students.



## Sept. 10 - 14

Officers responded to eight fire alarms.

## Sept. 10

Officer provided a medical assist at the Cage.

## Sept. 11

Officer responded to a student in Deerfield who felt like they were going to pass out.

## Sept. 13

Officer responded to a report of a stolen bicycle at West Mary.

## Berry College Campus Safety

For emergencies, call (706) 236-2262

For non-emergencies, call (706) 368-6999

“There have been times when I get screenshots of things of, even if it’s not actionable, [BCPD] just wants me to be aware of,” Taylor said. “If there are any students of concern, typically that’s talked about in a controlled group of people. We make decisions on what type of intervention need to happen, do parents need to be brought in.”

Chesley said that BCPD regularly shares information about safety concerns with other departments.

“We already have infrastructure in place that if there’s a student somebody’s received an alert on, we can pretty easily come together,” Chesley said. “All those conversations are regularly ongoing in quiet times.”

Taylor said looking out for each other emphasizes the “Good Neighbor” culture Berry upholds.

“When we talk about ‘Good Neighbor,’ this is one of those moments of ‘what does it look like to be a good neighbor?’” Taylor said. “How we treat each other can have lasting ripple effects. But also, if we see someone who’s struggling, how do you get them to help? And I hope that is the biggest takeaway in terms of what we can do to prevent crisis. It really is to look after each other.”



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# How can presidential candidates address young people's concerns?

For many Berry College students, the 2024 general election will be their first time voting for a presidential candidate, with some of them still undecided. From now until Nov. 5, presidential candidates have the opportunity to address the concerns that matter most to the future of America, particularly dominant issues like LGBTQ+ rights, climate change, reproductive freedom, economic policies and gun control. With 47 days until the election, candidates still have time to outline their plans that demonstrate their commitment to tackling these urgent challenges. The real question is whether they will rise to the occasion and earn the trust — and votes — of the generation shaping the future.

Historically, older Americans have turned out to vote in much higher numbers than younger generations. However, if young Americans increase their turnout, they have the potential to significantly influence the outcome of this election, much like previous elections. As written in an article by Gabriel R. Sanchez, Karishma Luthra and Anya Parasher on Brookings.edu, “Whether young people turn out in high numbers and who they vote for will largely depend on how well Trump or Harris persuade young voters that they can improve future opportunities.”

To gain the trust of the younger voters, candidates must engage and cater towards their younger audience. A prominent example is democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris. Harris has several accounts across various platforms and posts regularly — up to five times a day on each account. This strategy captures the attention of future voters and can sway their opinions, influencing their vote, either in favor of or against the candidate. Through platforms like TikTok and Instagram, candidates can quickly engage with voters, sharing information that is vital to younger Americans to address some of their concerns directly. These digital spaces are powerful tools in shaping election outcomes if used correctly.

One way presidential candidates can address young

people's concerns is by offering straightforward and consistent policies on the issues that matter most to them. Both Democratic and Republican candidates have been criticized for lacking clarity and frequently changing their positions on key topics. For example, in 2016, Republican nominee Donald Trump was vocal about banning abortion nationwide, but now advocates for leaving the decision to the states. Similarly, Vice President Kamala Harris shifted her stance on fracking; she was initially against it in 2019, but later in 2022, supported a balanced approach that includes fracking alongside green

**Candidates should foster connections to youth voters by presenting themselves as accessible and relatable**

Michael J. Pomante II

energy solutions. This inconsistency is not unique to Trump or Harris — it has been a recurring issue with many presidential candidates. Clear, consistent policies are crucial to building trust with young voters.

Gun policy is a critical issue for young people. In the wake of the recent Apalachee High School shooting, many young Americans continue to push for stricter gun control measures to combat the rise in school shootings and gun violence. In Georgia, Governor Brian Kemp signed a bill allowing

residents to carry handguns without a license or background check, a move that directly contrasts with the calls from young voters for stricter regulations, such as comprehensive background checks and even a potential ban on assault weapons. Presidential candidates can no longer afford to offer vague promises on gun control — they need to take a definitive stance. Addressing gun policy head-on will resonate with a generation that feels increasingly vulnerable to gun violence and demands meaningful action.

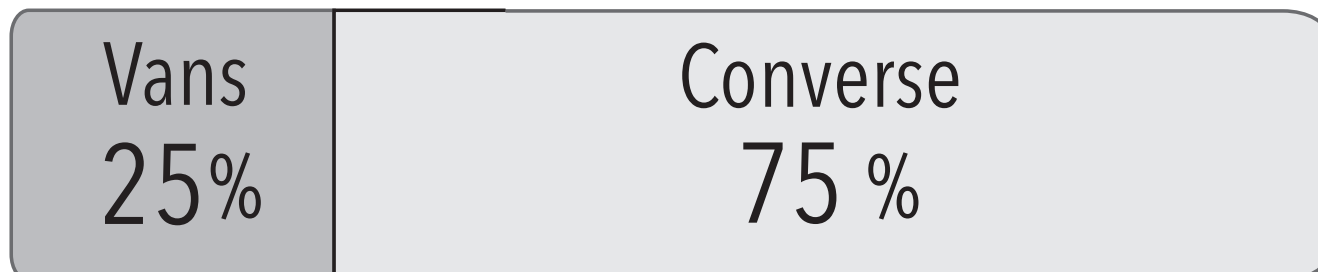
As the younger generation of America continues to advocate for LGBTQ+ rights and gender equality, presidential candidates are increasingly pressured to somewhat align with these values. Young voters expect candidates to confront systemic injustices and propose policies that actively work to dismantle them. This includes advancing comprehensive anti-discrimination laws, addressing wage gaps and creating pathways for marginalized communities to access higher education and equitable employment opportunities. Candidates who prioritize social justice and equality will draw the attention of a generation that sees inclusivity and fairness as essential pillars of their future.

In this upcoming election, much like previous general elections, the power of the young voters cannot be underestimated. With their concerns centered around issues like LGBTQ+ rights, climate change, reproductive freedom, economic policies and gun control, this generation holds the key to shaping the nation's future. As the candidates continue to win over the votes of the American citizens, it is essential for candidates to move beyond vague promises and deliver clear and consistent policies that address the urgent voices of the young people of America.

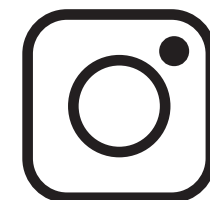
The Carrier's editorial opinion represents the views of the senior members of the Campus Carrier and Viking Fusion news staff.

**This week's Campus Carrier poll:**

## Converse or Vans?



**Follow @campuscarrier on Instagram to vote in the weekly poll!**



# Berry does not have a parking problem

**ABIGAIL DUNAGAN**  
features editor

One of the most common complaints that students have about Berry is the parking situation. I cannot count the number of times I have heard people complaining that “Berry doesn’t have enough parking” or that they “can never find parking on campus,” or “they were late to class because there was no parking.” I am going to debunk each of the common complaints that I hear about Berry’s parking. As a senior who has spent three years at Berry and lived in both on and off campus housing, I am here to tell you that this problem is extremely overexaggerated, especially from new students.

“There was no parking at Evans this morning!”

Before I answer this statement, let me ask you where you are living. Are you a commuter, or do you live at Oak Hill or Mountain Campus? If the answer to this question is “no” then I don’t really understand why you are trying to park in the Evans parking lot in the first place. The Evans/McAllister parking lot serves one of the busiest class centers on campus. Many professors and students use those buildings every day, so why do you think you are entitled to a parking spot right in front of your preferred building at 11 a.m?

“I was late because I couldn’t find parking!”

That’s on you. If you live in housing areas that would require you to drive every day, you should know after a few days that there is always parking in the Cage Center. If you are running late to class, why would you waste your time circling the Evans parking lot looking for a spot when you could save yourself that time and park at the Cage? As a college student, getting to class on time is your responsibility. Your mom is not going to wake you up and pack your lunch, and your professor is not going to call you and tell you to come to class. You are fully responsible to plan ahead for your day and to figure what time you need to leave to avoid traffic or other delays. If you are late to class, acknowledge it and move on. Don’t try to blame your inability to plan on Berry.

“Berry needs to build a parking deck!”

No, they don’t. One of the most unique things about Berry is the beautiful nature that covers campus. Where else can you walk past a family of deer on your way to class? I personally don’t want to look at a giant concrete parking deck. If parking decks are so important to you, you should have gone to a college in Atlanta.

I know that this seems harsh, but compared to other colleges, Berry is doing just fine in the parking department. I have friends at bigger schools who pay hundreds for a parking pass, yet they can only park in one specific deck. It takes some people longer to find parking at big city schools. Don’t make a huge fuss online because it took you an extra five minutes to walk from the Cage.

For three semesters, I lived at the Oak Hill residences. I drove to campus every day and parked in the Cage lot without issue, and I walked to all of my classes. If you live in Dana, Mo-Lem, Mo-Field or any other close campus housing, you really don’t have a reason to drive to your classes. If you do live in Ford and don’t have time to take the long walk, drive and park in the Cage.

Walk to class and take the time to enjoy our beautiful campus. We are surrounded by nature, and we are often in a hurry that we don’t stop to enjoy it. Get yourself a good pair of headphones and listen to your favorite music or podcast during your walk to class. College will likely be one of the last times that you will get to live in a walkable community, so take advantage of it.

# Why I believe fall is the best season

**JENNA BACON**  
arts & living editor

Every year when September rolls around, I find myself more excited to get outside and enjoy the fresh air. This is partly because the heat in Georgia has gone from sweltering to tolerable by this time of year. As the leaves begin to change colors and the air begins to feel crisp, my mind starts conjuring up images of jack-o-lanterns, cinnamon rolls, fair rides and cozy nights spent with a good book. There is nothing I love more than autumnal weather and activities.

When it comes to seasonal fashion, fall has its competition beat. In winter, you’re so bundled up that people can’t see the cool details of your outfit. On the flip side, during the summer months, people are limited to the amount of clothes they can wear without having a heat stroke. Spring fashion has its perks, but it can also feel a bit repetitive. To quote Miranda Priestly from the film “The Devil Wears Prada,” “Florals? For Spring? Groundbreaking.” In fall, people are able to layer their clothing and be comfortable without sacrificing the integrity of their outfit and embrace a warm and versatile color palette that is universally flattering.

Sometimes I find myself wishing that we had three months off school in the fall instead of the summer because I enjoy fall activities so much. I enjoy the beach, but I absolutely adore a cabin stay in the mountains. In the mountains, you can go on hayrides, walk through a corn maze, and even pick your own apples if you get lucky.

Speaking of food, fall is when some of my favorite foods come back into season. There is nothing better than a warm bowl of brunswick stew paired with a fresh batch of cornbread. Baked goods are also a major component of autumn. I have a giant sweet tooth, so I am here for all the sweet treats! Some of my favorites include pecan pie, apple cider donuts and pumpkin bread.

While some may disagree, I am a strong believer that some TV shows and movies are better watched in the fall. In the show “Gilmore Girls,” many of the episodes are set during the fall. The autumnal aesthetic, paired with engaging dialogue and storyline, really creates the perfect fall comfort show.

When it comes to fall movies, I love to take this time to rewatch the Harry Potter and Twilight

movie series. Since the weather is cooling off and the days are getting shorter, fall is the perfect time to curl up with a warm blanket and bowl of popcorn and immerse yourself in the mystical world of Hogwarts. The series also includes several Christmas scenes, which can help excite you for the upcoming festivities. Whether you are team Edward or Team Jacob, everyone enjoys rewatching the Twilight movies during the fall season. With the beautiful fall scenery and the vast number of vampires and werewolves, this movie series will get you in the mood for fall and Halloween.

To conclude my ramblings, fall is a season that brings endless moments of joy and comfort. From the stunning view of the trees shedding their leaves to the crisp breeze that appears, fall is a time for slowing down and appreciating the beauty of our world. The fun of fall activities, the aesthetic of fall fashion and the cozy entertainment of fall movies are all aspects of why fall is the best season. So, grab a warm blanket and a pumpkin spice latte, and let yourself enjoy all the fun that fall has to offer.

## *THE CAMPUS CARRIER*

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### DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

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Nico Klementzos

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### PHOTOGRAPHER

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### PHOTOGRAPHER

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### CONTENT CREATOR

Reign Sosebee

### CIRCULATION DIRECTOR

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### ONLINE EDITOR

Lauren Carnes

### COPY EDITOR

Nicole Tognarina

### STAFF WRITER

Nathanael Mooney

### STAFF WRITER

Anna Gorman

### ADVISER

Kevin Kleine

(706) 236-2294

campus\_carrier@berry.edu

# Remembering the life and legacy of Evelyn Hamilton

**Abigail Dunagan**  
*features Editor*  
**Cammie Wilks**  
*asst. features editor*

This past week, Berry College mourned the loss of Evelyn Louise Hamilton, 78, who was one of the first African-American students to graduate from the institution.

Berry College was a segregated school during its first 50 years, remaining dedicated to Martha Berry’s original mission of educating the students from Georgia’s rural areas. Although the school’s original charter did not mention race, the college chose to remain segregated for many years. There were no African-American students attending Berry at the time, and few applied due to the assumption that they would be denied. Those who did apply were denied admission under the claim of “full rooms.”

In 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court outlawed the segregation of schools in the ruling of Brown vs. Board of Education. At the time when Berry’s president John R. Bertrand was serving the college, issues of segregation were at the forefront of academia in the south. Although there was much discussion

and debate amongst the students and faculty of the school, on Sept. 23, 1964, Bertrand announced that Berry College would no longer be segregated.

Hamilton graduated from Main High School in 1964 with plans to attend college. She was approached by the principal at her school who informed her and several other students that Berry College was planning on integrating, and the students were asked if they would be interested in attending the college. After becoming one of the first African-American students to enroll at Berry, Hamilton graduated in 1969 with a Bachelors of Science in Home Economics.

Director of Foundation Relations and Strategic Partnerships Stacey Spillers has been at Berry for over 20 years, and she met Hamilton during the beginning of her time at here. According to Spillers, Hamilton was instrumental in the reigniting of the African-American Alumni chapter, and she also worked to establish the Hamilton-Smith scholarship. This is an endowed scholarship that was founded by Hamilton alongside Beverly Smith, who graduated at the same time as Hamilton with a Bachelors in English. Spillers had the opportunity to take Hamilton and Smith out to lunch a few times a year, and she got learn more about their experiences as students at Berry.

“Evelyn was a very humble person, but very much a servant leader that you respected,” Spillers said. “From her time at Berry, even though she would let



Hannah McLeod | Campus Carrier

you know there were some times where she wasn’t content, she always had a positive outlook and talked about what she gained from the experience.”

After graduating from Berry, Hamilton worked as a caseworker in the department of family and children services for 34 years. She was an active participant in community service throughout her life, such as securing a grant to renovate her old high school, volunteering at a local clinic and working with various other organizations to help others.

“She was a quiet leader, but more for the sake that she



PHOTO COURTESY OF BERRY COLLEGE ARCHIVES  
 Evelyn Hamilton graduated from Berry in 1969 with a Bachelor’s degree in Home Economics.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BERRY COLLEGE ARCHIVES  
 Hamilton was a active member in the Berry Community. This image shows Hamilton with fellow African American Alumni taking a picture outside of Pine Lodge during Mountain Day 2002.

“She was a quiet leader, but more for the sake that she didn’t want any attention on herself,” Spillers said. “She was the most humble person I probably knew. She wanted to get things done. There were many things that were very important to her servant life here on campus. She was a person who tried to emulate what Jesus would want you to do.”

Chief Belonging and Community Engagement Officer Haley Smith got to meet with Hamilton and Beverly Smith two years ago to discuss the establishment of the Office of Belonging and Community Engagement. According to Smith, Hamilton was eager to support the new office, as this was not something that would have been possible in 1964 when she was a student. Although Hamilton did not work directly with the office, Smith said that they take a lot of inspiration from her life. Hamilton was heavily involved in local community service, and this is something that many in the Berry community admire and cherish.

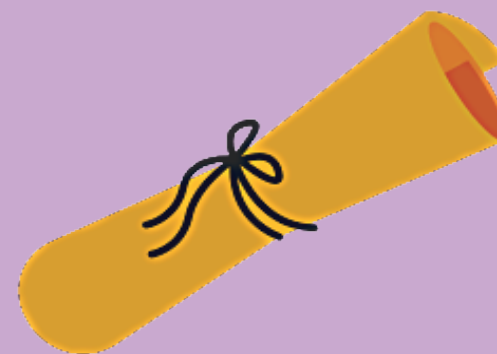
I think that her life is ultimately a reflection of the kind of person we aspire our students to be

Haley Smith

“In addition to being an inspiration of diversity on this campus and being open-minded and inclusive, I think that her life is ultimately a reflection of the kind of person we aspire for our students to be,” Smith said. “In the way we approach community and identity, she is somebody that I aspire to be like. My hope is that we can inspire our students to be something like her.”

Hamilton is remembered by many for her generosity and kindness. Her legacy at Berry College is one that will be remembered for years to come, and her story has impacted many lives.

“I think her life represented innovation, and thinking more openly,” Smith said. “I think that her coming into Berry College at the time that she did would not have been as easy as it is now. It is still a predominantly white institution. The bravery and willingness of her to be with people who were learning at that time is pretty incredible.”



Cammie Wilks | Campus Carrier



MacKenzie McGrath | Campus Carrier



PHOTO COURTESY OF BERRY COLLEGE ARCHIVES

Hamilton played a crucial role in reigniting the African-American Alumni chapter. This image shows her with other members in Krannert on Mountain Day of 2002.

# “Imperiled Beauty” at the Moon Gallery

**Lexie Shadix**  
assistant arts and living editor

The Moon Gallery is displaying “Imperiled Beauty,” an exhibition showing art by Laura Martin. Martin has written and published 26 different books pertaining to nature. She has a degree in botany, a certificate degree in Botanical Art and became involved with endangered plants while doing work at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens several years ago.

“Imperiled Beauty” consists of 19 plants native to Georgia that are on the Federal Endangered Species list. Martin also included some additional works featuring plants endangered in other Southeastern states for her exhibit at the Moon Gallery. The paintings are accompanied by signs that discuss the plant pictured and reasons for its endangerment. There is also a table filled with sketches and notes that Martin compiled throughout the project.

“It kind of gave an extra dimension, so this show is going to be very different from the way it was shown in Atlanta,” said Brad Adams, associate professor of art and coordinator of Moon Gallery exhibits. “We have a sort of custom show here.”

According to Adams, it bridges the gap between art and science and is something that people can connect with. In this exhibit, Martin combined her passion for conservation and art to create a show that is not only pleasing to the eye but also educational.

“My goal was to raise awareness, not only about the plants themselves, but about their role in the ecosystem and their beauty,” Martin said.

The paintings consist of watercolor plants on a painted black background. At first glance, the plants appear to be painted on black paper or even glass with a black backing.

“They’re all done in fairly traditional watercolor,” Martin said. “But then I went around with a watercolor gouache to paint black around them. Not only to me is this aesthetically pleasing, but it also indicates the danger these plants are in. And this, to me, is the imperiled beauty.”

Through her artwork, Martin showed the grave fate that these plants are faced with while also highlighting their undeniable elegance.

“It’s very uplifting to see these watercolors and the majesty of these plants,” Christopher Mowry, a professor of biology at Berry, said. “But it’s also sobering to understand that they’re being lost, and we will never get them

back again.”

Mowry was the one who first arranged for this exhibit to come to Berry.

“Laura had reached out to me,” Mowry said. “I thought it sounded like a great fit for Berry.”

All the plants in the exhibit are on the Federal Endangered Species list. This list covers all species, not only plants, and species are added so long as they meet the requirements of being endangered or threatened set by the Endangered Species Act. Depending on the species, there are varying requirements that must be met for an organism to end up on the

now going extinct.

“More species are being listed at a higher rate and it all can be linked to human activities,” Mowry said.

According to Catherine Borer, associate professor and chair of biology, much of the reason that plants are facing extinction at such a high rate is habitat loss.

“If you look at many different types of rare, endangered or threatened species, a lot of times it boils down to habitat loss, whether it’s habitat degradation or just wiping out the habitat [by] building houses, store and parking lots,” Borer said. “If you think about the grass we

can connect to. The plant becomes not just a name, but something that people once used and cherished.

“I think that if you get people to relate to something, they will be more interested in saving it,” Martin said.

Martin wants to help spread the message that there are ways to help conserve plants that are approaching extinction.

“I think that many of us feel a lack of power and a lack of influence,” Martin said. “And we can become really depressed about the environment’s state, but to be able to actually do something, not only does it serve the environment, but it also serves us. It gives us a sense of purpose, a sense that we are influencing and that things may not be as bleak as they are presented in the news.”

While the future for these plants may seem disheartening at first glance, there are things that can be done to help conserve them. Many plants are facing extinction due to the presence of invasive weeds. One thing students at Berry can do is help get rid of them.

“Many organizations actually host workdays so you can go and actually remove the invasive weeds,” Martin said. “I would love to see students take on legislation to ban the sale of invasive plants in the southeast through the nursery trade.”

Students can support organizations that protect the land. Support does not necessarily entail a monetary donation; this could also come in the form of volunteering. It is also important to raise awareness about the danger these plants are in and a community can often do much more than one individual. At Berry specifically, conservations projects are occurring to preserve the Longleaf Pine and American Chestnut. Mowry has multiple projects taking place at Berry that focus on coyotes, birds and bats, among other things. Students can also practice simply being a responsible steward of our earth.

“Imperiled Beauty” combines art and science and offers something for everyone.

“I think it’s wonderful that we have this sort of collaborative approach between biology and art,” Borer said. “I think it provides a really different angle on conservation biology in general. I think it’s approachable to lots of different types of people, backgrounds and interests, and everybody can learn and take away from it.”

Martin weaves together multiple disciplines in a truly beautiful way to tell the stories of these plants. As more species creep closer to extinction, we do not have to merely stand by. “Imperiled Beauty” not only gives a voice to these endangered species, but it also informs viewers of ways they can have a voice in the fight against these plants’ imperilment as well. If people continue to advocate for species and work against extinction like Martin, one day these beauties will no longer be imperiled.



Alyssa Elmore | CAMPUS CARRIER

The table filled with sketches, notes and painting utensils featured in the “Imperiled Beauty” exhibit at the Moon Gallery

list, and various experts are called to determine if the species is at risk.

“It doesn’t just happen overnight,” Mowry said. “It’s usually a long process, but if it’s successful, then that species is placed on the endangered species list. Then there is a recovery plan that is put into action.”

The Endangered Species Act also provides the guidelines that must be put into action to recover species on the list. Once a species is listed, all hope is not lost. The bald eagle is an excellent example of this. They were listed as an endangered species in 1978, and a recovery plan was put in place, leading to the birds being removed from the list in 2007. While extinction is considered a natural process, the concern is the rapid rate at which species are

have on lawns, that’s not a natural ecosystem. Managed, manicured lawns and flower gardens and stuff like that, we’re completely changing a lot of ecosystems.”

The sad truth is that many may not be aware of what is happening to our plants. If they are, they may not know what they can do to help. On Wednesday, Martin visited Berry to speak in “Talk with an Artist,” which was organized by the Cultural Events Center. There, she spoke to Berry students about why these plants are in danger and what steps we can take to prevent their extinction. She also wove Native American stories into her presentation to describe the plants original habitats. She did this with the goal of giving her audience something they feel like they

# Students harvest clay for burial monuments

**Jenna Bacon**  
arts and living editor

On Friday, Sept. 13, a group of Berry College students joined Visiting Assistant Art Professor Dennis Ritter on a trip to harvest clay for the ceramics studio. The group met in the ceramics studio of the Moon Building and carpooled to go harvest clay at Mountain Mama Farms.

Mountain Mama Farms is located on property belonging to the Scoggins family. It is operated by Stacie Marshall, a fifth-generation descendant and the first woman farmer of the Scoggins family. Upon moving her family to the farmhouse Marshall had inherited, she began to research her family history. While she was sorting through some of her grandparents' belongings, she came across a copy of a county slave schedule that was from the year 1860. Upon uncovering the knowledge that her family had actively participated in the institution of slavery, Marshall began to pursue anti-racism work. She aims to confront and acknowledge her family's history while building community through open dialogues about Southern history and race relations.

Hester's Heritage, named after a woman who was enslaved by

the Scoggins family, is a foundation Marshall began with the goal of promoting equal justice in the preservation of black history. Hester's Heritage has been involved in the historical preservation of burial grounds of enslaved individuals. Hester's Heritage also hosts an annual community dinner to build connections and provide a safe space for productive discussions on race, historical preservation, and black farming initiatives.

This is not the first time that Berry students have harvested clay from Mountain Mama Farms. According to senior Allie Patterson, this is the second year that a group of Berry students has harvested clay from Mountain Mama Farms.

"We did this project last year, and it was so fun, and people who attended the Hester's Heritage community dinner got to observe the pieces that we created for the event," Patterson said. "I'm pretty sure the money that we raised through that went back to the Harris Heritage fund. So, that was really awesome."



Charlie Pakluck | CAMPUS CARRIER

## A group of student volunteers harvesting clay for the Berry ceramic studio

Marshall later shared that those funds were used for preservation.

"Last year, with those funds, we were able to bring in two Historic preservationists who specialized in enslaved cemetery preservation work," Marshall said. "Part of the why we are specifically focused on the slave burial grounds is because there have not been preservation efforts historically to those cemeteries, so a lot of the grave markers have been misplaced or lost."

The preservationists used geothermal equipment to locate 47 unmarked burial plots within the cemetery. According to Marshall, she hopes to continue to partner with Berry college students to raise money for a monument that will mark those burial spots.

There is significant symbolism behind taking the clay from this land and using it to create works of art that community members get to enjoy. Senior Autumn Bennet shared why she enjoys the hands-on process of harvesting clay from Mountain Mama Farms.

"I guess what you're doing feels more important when you're taking something from the land and you're giving it back to a part of the community that really needs it," Bennet said. "So, it feels more significant in a way because

you're digging with a purpose you're building with a purpose."

This is not the first time that Marshall has been involved with the Berry community. Beginning in 2018, Associate Professor of Anthropology & Environmental Studies Brian Campbell used Marshall's farm as a field site for one of his anthropology classes. Throughout the next four years, he and his students documented a lot of Marshall and her family's experiences through video interviews. In 2022, a documentary film called "Her Name Was Hester" was released, produced by Campbell and his students.

According to Marshall, she's also had Berry students come to volunteer at Mountain Mama Farms.

"We also have partnered with the Berry College volunteer services, and they have served at our dinner," Marshall said. "And we also partner with them during the MLK service day for the historic preservation."

The collaboration that has taken place between Berry College and Mountain Mama Farms so far has been successful. As students continue using their artistic abilities to support preservation, they will continue to foster a sense of community. There will be undoubtedly be future collaborations between Berry College and Mountain Mama farms in the future.



Charlie Pakluck | CAMPUS CARRIER  
Stacie Marshall poses for a picture with a chicken egg



## Tree Octopus

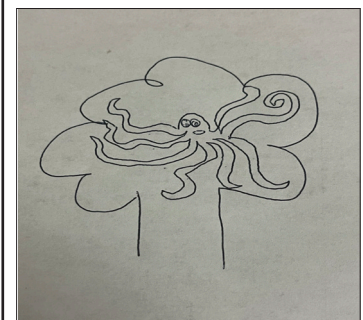
There are plenty of stories detailing the attacks of octopi from under the sea, but little did you know, they're a threat from on land, too. The Pacific Northwest Tree Octopus, named for its favorite hangout spot high in the branches of the rainforest, is a creature that few know to keep on their radar.

The Tree Octopus spends the early stages of growth in water, but once it gets big enough, it transitions to dwell in trees. The moisture of the rainforest allows the creature to avoid dehydration, but it certainly doesn't mind crawling down to sit in a puddle of water every once and a while, too.

Although the creature usually only grows to be 30-33 centimeters, it is not a threat to be brushed aside. It has an unusually large brain that gives it a much higher intelligence than other amphibious animals, and its long tentacles covered in sensitive suckers allow it to easily catch unsuspecting prey.

Tree Octopi can display their emotions by changing the color of their skin. While they are usually a shade of brown, which allows them to blend in with their tree homes, they can also turn red to display anger and white to show fear.

So, if you ever find yourself walking through the rainforest and see a blob of red in a nearby branch, be careful: a Tree Octopus may be waiting to strike. See the sketch below for a detailed look at the creature.



# Berry Bucks prep for the start of the 2024-25 season

*Will Hoogendyk IV*  
sports editor

Berry students are known for their busy schedules and involvement on campus. With the many clubs and student organizations offered, Berry students have numerous opportunities to engage with. 18 percent of students at Berry play on an official athletic team during the school year, but there is a smaller population that participates on a club team at Berry. The Berry College Ultimate Frisbee Club, or Berry Ultimate, is a popular option for students that are looking to continue their athletic careers but don't want to commit to a full-time athletic team on campus.

Berry Ultimate is split into a men's and women's team. Ian VanOrder is captain and president of the men's team known as the Berry Bucks. A senior at Berry, VanOrder is entering his fourth year playing for the Bucks and his third year as their captain. VanOrder's experience and seniority have led to more responsibilities for the 2024-25 season.

"[As captain,] you're supposed to be the main guy to go to when they need to know about ultimate, or really just teaching the game," VanOrder said.

Because frisbee is not an official athletic team at Berry, they receive all their funding from the Student Government Association (SGA) rather than the athletic department. VanOrder's presidential duties include handling the budget and overseeing logistics for tournament travel and lodging.

The Bucks have been very successful in recent years, winning the Southeast Regional championship every year since 2019. Their

streak of five straight titles is second behind Middlebury College's six for longest active streak. VanOrder attributes this continued success to the Bucks' team environment.

"I would say the biggest thing is putting fun first in frisbee," VanOrder said. "In order to have a team with a good culture, we look for people with good attitudes who want to have fun on the field and want to have fun with the opponents and just represent Berry well."

The Bucks have already started practicing in preparation for their first tournament in Auburn, Alabama from Oct. 19-20. VanOrder has noticed the increase in players that have come out to fall practices, with the number sitting at around 40. For in-season tournaments, VanOrder and the other captains are looking to have a travel roster of around 26-30 players. One way VanOrder and the other captains will get the roster down to this size is by evaluating them during practices and seeing how they cooperate with others.

"I'm looking for really just their character on the team," VanOrder said. "How well they are supporting their teammates, their skill level as well, athleticism [and] knowledge of the game."

Berry Ultimate has been around for many years, but it wasn't until 2017 that the team competed in their first collegiate tournament with USA Ultimate (USAU). Since their debut, Berry has had much success in regular and post season play. The Bucks compete against other teams in the Eastern Southeast region to vie for a spot in the Division 3 National Championship. The championship, organized by USAU each year, will be held on May 18-20, 2025 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin this year.

As the Bucks look to continue their streak of Nationals appearances, VanOrder has high hopes set for the team this season.

"Last year we thought there was a chance that we could have won the whole national tournament," VanOrder said. "This year, we still have that opportunity, and we are just going to build off and be better than we were last year."

Because ultimate frisbee is not an NCAA sanctioned sport, schools that have teams register through the USAU to compete against other colleges. This also means that Division 3 schools like Berry College can go up against Division 1 giants like Alabama, Tennessee or University of Georgia. While Berry may play against these schools in tournaments

throughout the year, USAU separates their national championships into Division 1 and Division 3 categories. Even so, the Bucks will have their work cut out for them this season, as they play in a one bid conference for nationals meaning that the Bucks' best shot at Nationals is to win the Southeast Region.

In April 2023, the ultimate frisbee teams hosted the Southeast Regionals at home. While there are no home tournaments currently on the schedule for Berry, VanOrder hopes to be able to do it again, as he appreciates the support that the teams get from the students. This year, VanOrder is looking for players with characteristics that blend in with the culture that Berry Ultimate is known for.

"[Players] able to just hang with the community and be involved and [who] want to be involved with people," VanOrder said. "Those are the people we tend to get and [who] tend to really stay because a lot of us just end up being friends. A lot of my best friends are on the team, and that's really how we get most of our players is really just being present with people."

Being a club sport, the time commitment is not as demanding as a regular athletic team, but players on the travel roster are still expected to be present for tournaments and practices. The Bucks practice from 5-7pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays and from 8-10pm on Sundays. Practices are held at the Lower Ford fields between the baseball and softball fields.

For more information or details about the club, you can reach out to the captains on Instagram @berrybucks.ulti or email them through the Berry Ultimate tab on the Berry Presence app.

A lot of my  
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really just being  
present with  
people

Ian VanOrder

## Berry Bucks Fall Tournaments

2024 Hootenanny Showdown in Auburn,  
Alabama Oct. - 19-20

Jacksonville State Open in Jacksonville,  
Alabama - Nov. 2-3

Mississippi State Open - Nov. 16-17

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Bucks are named after Berry's massive deer population. As of 2023, there is a 7:1 deer to student ratio. To put it in perspective, the faculty/staff

to student ratio is 11:1.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BERRY BUCKS



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANGELA DRURY



Nico Klementzos | CAMPUS CARRIER

The Vikings took the court for the first time this season at home against Washington and Lee University on Aug. 30. Freshman Blakely Barnes spikes the ball over the net to try and secure a point for the Vikings.

# Volleyball season starts, looking to stay atop the SAA

**Stephen Slezak**  
asst. sports editor

Volleyball is back in action for the Vikings, where Berry has been dominant nationally year in and year out. Berry comes off of a 27-6 season, capping the season off with hosting regionals. The Vikings return with nine upper classmen mixed in with young talent in the sophomore and freshman class.

Caitlyn Moriarty is back for her ninth year as head coach of the Vikings. Moriarty has accumulated a 195-42 record with a 97-9 record in the Southern Athletic Association (SAA). Over her time at Berry, Moriarty has been named American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) South Region Coach of the Year three times, as well as SAA Coach of the Year four times. Moriarty has also led the Vikings to six SAA championships over her career.

There was no time to waste for the Vikings at the start of the season. Berry has played three nationally ranked teams out of their first five games with the two remaining schools

also being quality opponents. Scheduling a tough opening schedule can be very beneficial to the success of the team later in the season.

“We always try to play the best competition possible,” Moriarty said. “We want our players to be exposed to those really strong teams or a tough situation mentally so that when it comes time for conference play and preparing ourselves to potentially make the NCAA tournament, we want them to not be shocked at what that feels like. We want them to be prepared and having been exposed to the best in division three.”

Entering this season, new players have stepped into roles and competed for playing time with the veterans on the team. The freshman class brings in six new players who have shown to improve the floor of the team in games as well as in practices.

“Our freshman class is extremely talented and mature,” Moriarty said. “They all have the potential to see the volleyball court and elevate our gym on a daily basis.”

Lindsey MacDiarmid enters her senior year at Berry where she has won three conference championships in the previous years. In 2023, MacDiarmid accumulated honors such as AVCA All-region Honorable mention, SAA second team all-conference, and SAA all-

tournament team. Being part of the volleyball team at Berry for this time means much more to MacDiarmid than just being a student-athlete.

“I’m valued as more than just an athlete,” MacDiarmid said. “I’m grateful that at Berry we are valued as more than just our sport. Just being on the volleyball team is a wonderful opportunity, and I cherish all the moments. I’m super grateful that I do get to be surrounded by these players and coaches.”

The preseason camp before the regular season is meant to prepare the players for the physically exhausting season ahead of the team. The camp is composed of challenges named after each team in the SAA, and each player is required to pass those challenges.

“The whole idea behind it is that if we are beating the challenge then we are mentally beating them before we play them,” MacDiarmid said. “Pushing ourselves mentally and physically, but also working as a team to fight and overcome those battles. Our coaches do a good job setting us up for success when challenges come.”

Following three straight SAA championships and trips to the elite eight and regionals, the expectations and goals for the team remain constant and not to look ahead into the postseason.

“Our biggest goal is always to get one step better whether that’s in practice or in games,” MacDiarmid said. “The wins will come; our goals will flourish when they happen. The main goal is being opened minded, and not being afraid to back down from a challenge with the mindset of getting better each day.”

Volleyball has come off to a rough start entering the year with an overall record of 3-6. Berry won their first conference game in three straight sets over Oglethorpe University to stay 1-0 in conference play. Through the slow start to the season, there are lessons to be learned from these losses.

“We are learning to persevere and work through different things,” MacDiarmid said. “As a senior it’s cool to see freshman and sophomores using their voice and speaking up. I would not change what we’re going through because I know we are going to come out stronger on the other end. It’s going to set us up for success in the long run.”

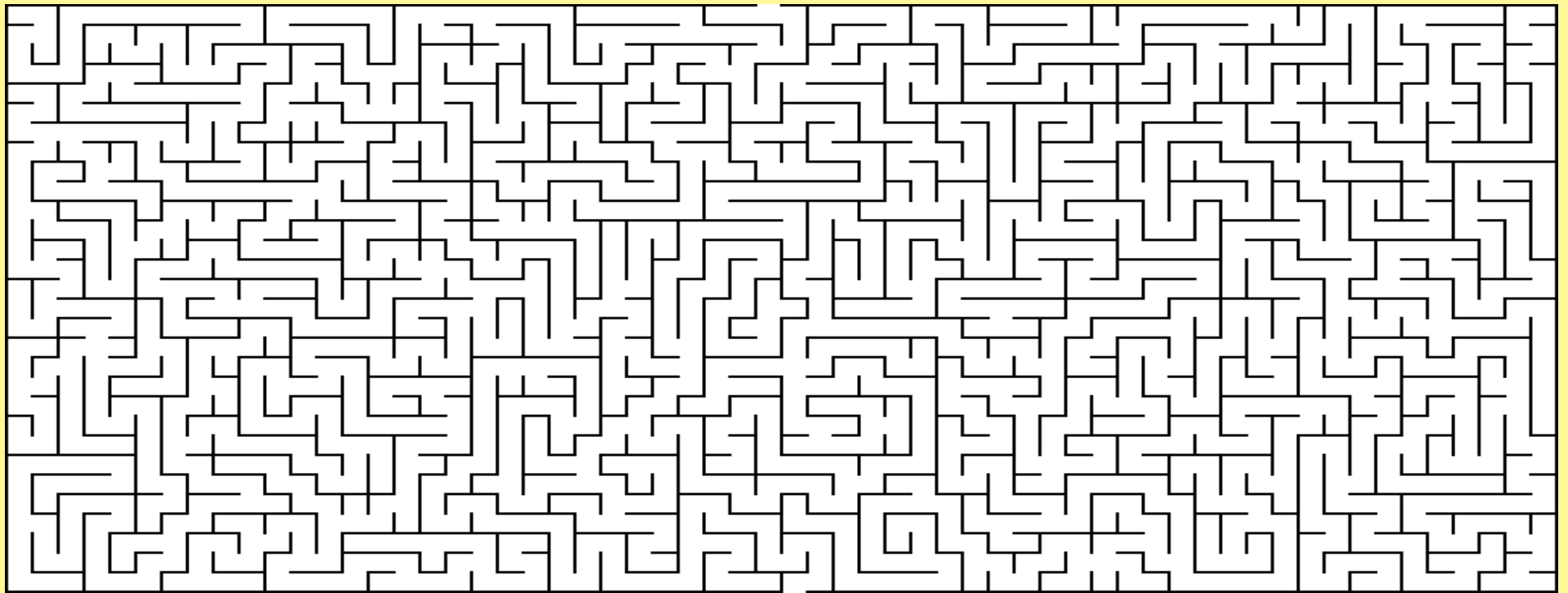
This Friday, Berry is hosting Emory University for their pack the house game. On Saturday, the Vikings host their parent’s day game against Covenant College. The remainder of conference play will start back up on Sept. 28 against Millsaps College at home.

We always try  
to play the best  
competition  
possible

Caitlyn Moriarty

I’m grateful that at  
Berry we are valued  
as more than just  
our sport

Lindsey MacDiarmid



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