4-1-2013

The Dunlap Decade: The Presidency of Benjamin Bernard Dunlap, 2000-2013

Phillip Stone

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.wofford.edu/libraryexhibits

Part of the Higher Education Commons, Public History Commons, and the United States History Commons
During the past decade, a number of trademark celebrations and events have taken hold in the campus culture. In December, Winter Lighting begins the season with a mixture of observance and irreverence with programs ranging from carol singing to President Dunlap’s reading of How the Grinch Stole Christmas in Latin! A common feature is the lighting of the campus tree and the Greek row houses.

In the Easter season the annual Eggstravaganza bring thousands of children to campus to hunt for eggs.

In late spring The Terrio reenacts the famous Palio horse race in Siena, Italy with the Wofford twist of decorated golf carts careening (or puttering) along the campus drive.

A hallmark of the Dunlap presidency will be the introduction of carpet tapestries installed on walls throughout the campus.
The academic offerings at the college have grown with the rise in the student body. As they enter the college, students participate in the Novel Experience, which signals an atmosphere of learning.

The number of students studying abroad each year led to repeated recognition by the Institute of International Education in its Open Doors Report.

There has also been an increased emphasis on student research, both during the academic year and in summers as well in the Community of Scholars, which paired student researchers and faculty mentors.

New majors in Chinese, Environmental Studies, and theatre, as well as many interdisciplinary concentrations and emphases, have broadened student academic opportunities. As a way of recognizing excellence in teaching, the prestigious Roger Milliken and Philip S. Covington Awards were established with generous stipends. A larger, increasingly talented student body has resulted in a new crop of recipients of major graduate scholarships, culminating in a new Rhodes Scholar, Rachel Woodlee, in 2012.
Academic Program Enhancements ...continued

New Organic Chemistry Lab

Chinese Studies

George Singleton
2013 John Cobb Professor of Humanities

Rachel Woodlee-2012 Rhodes Scholar

Presidential Seminar

Dr. Lillian Gonzalez-
2011 Philip S. Covington Award Winner

Dr. Caleb Arrington-
2012 Roger Milliken Award Winner

Summer Research

community of Scholars projects open to all disciplines & studies

APPLICATION DEADLINE—Feb. 26, 2010
visit www.wofford.edu/communityscholars/ for all APPLICATIONS:DETAILS:FAQ

Research

New Organic Chemistry Lab
During President Dunlap’s tenure, there has been a greater emphasis on the arts and cultural programs of the College. The choral groups are revitalized, the strings players have grown from four students to 24, and we now have a concert band. The Troubadour classical guitar series is in its 13th year; the Chamber Music Series is now in its seventh year. The art galleries have increased from one to three and exhibition spaces have been created for student art works.
As members of the Southern Conference, Wofford’s sports teams won a number of conference championships in the early 2000s. The baseball team won the 2007 conference tournament, earning a trip to the NCAA tournament. The men’s soccer team won the 2009 conference championship and went to the tournament. The men’s basketball team won two conference championships, in 2010 and 2011, making two trips to the NCAA basketball tournament. The football team won the SoCon championship in 2003, 2007, and 2010, and made additional playoff appearances in 2008, 2011, and 2012.

Athletics also saw new facilities, including Russell C. King Field and Switzer Stadium for baseball and the Joe E. Taylor Center with a new weight room and offices for many of the coaches.
The past thirteen years have seen changes in virtually every part of campus. The expanded Roger Milliken Science Center opened in 2001, Main Building was completely renovated between 2005 and 2007, the Montgomery Music Building opened in 2012, and a new greenhouse and organic chemistry lab supplemented the science facilities. Along with new sports facilities and Lesesne Residence Hall, student housing was transformed by the addition of the Village between 2006 and 2011. The Michael S. Brown Village Center, a mixed-use facility on Evins Street, is the home to The SPACE in the Mungo Center, the Galleria, classrooms, and student housing.
Campus Improvements
...continued

Michael S. Brown Village Center

The SPACE in The Mungo Center

Montgomery Music Building

Organic Chemistry Lab in Roger Milliken Science Center

Switzer Stadium & Russel C. King Field Construction

Weight Room in Joe E. Taylor Athletic Center
In October 2002, Wofford College embarked on the largest capital campaign in its history, with a goal of raising $105 million. The Campaign for Wofford College included funding for permanent endowed professorships and chairs, and endowed scholarships; Annual Fund and Terrier Club support; facilities needs, such as the restoration of the historic Main Building; and funds for enrichment of academic and campus programs. The campaign was scheduled to end on Dec. 31, 2009, however, it reached its goal a year early, closing Dec. 31, 2008, with $106,110,824 in gifts and pledges.
Wofford's first venture away from the historic campus, the Goodall Environmental Studies Center is located approximately 7.5 miles from campus in Glendale, overlooking the Lawson's Fork of the Pacolet River. Dedicated in 2010, the center is located in a restored textile mill office, and it received LEED Platinum certification by the U. S. Green Building Council. It was the first academic building in the state to achieve this designation.
Student engagement and development have seen a renaissance during the Dunlap presidency:

Since 2001, Wofford has participated in the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) as a way of measuring and assessing the ways in which students engage in their coursework. The college has used this information to enhance the academic experience, and also participated in Project DEEP, for Documenting Effective Educational Practices.

The area of student professional development has evolved and expanded considerably in the past thirteen years. A revitalized office of career services saw parallel opportunities for student development in the Success Initiative, the Sophomore Experience, a summer institute for professional development, and support for student consulting groups and entrepreneurship. These services merged to become the Mungo Center for Professional Excellence. In 2013, it became The SPACE in the Mungo Center, with spaces to impact, prepare, launch, consult, and explore.
Recent years have seen an emphasis on service by students and the campus community.

The Bonner Scholars program, endowed in 2006, requires all participants to provide at least ten hours of community service each week during the school year and 280 hours over each of at least two summers.

Terrier Play Day continues to honor and celebrate Wofford College’s commitment to the local community and President Dunlap’s continued commitment to service both inside and outside the boundaries of Wofford College by uniting students, faculty, staff, and administration with children from local service agencies where students regularly volunteer for a day of carnival fun.

Now in its sixth year, the Sandor Teszler Award for Moral Courage and Service to Humankind represents the highest ideals that the Wofford community espouses, and it carries with it an honorary degree, a citation and a $10,000 cash award. Its most recent recipient is Eboo Patel, founder of Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC).
Wofford’s own branch of the IFYC follows the larger group’s mission of building mutual respect and pluralism among young people from different religious traditions by empowering them to work together to serve others. “The goal of the Wofford branch of IFYC is to promote pluralism by enhancing students’ knowledge, attitudes and relationships with people who are of different backgrounds and world views while also creating an ethic of service.”

Locally, the College is also helping the City of Spartanburg’s effort to revitalize the nearby neighborhood through participation in The Northside Project.

The College opened its Center for Global & Community Engagement in 2011, and focuses faculty, staff and student involvement in five primary areas:

- Education and Educational Access
- Energy and the Environment
- Health and Healthy Living
- Pluralism and Diversity
- Poverty Reduction and Alleviation
In the fall of 2000, 1,095 students were enrolled at Wofford, only one of whom came from outside the United States. The entering freshman class had 308 members.

In the fall of 2012, 1,588 students were enrolled, and 34 of them were from countries other than the United States. The entering freshman class had 439 members.

The college placed a greater emphasis on student programming, with a longer orientation period known as FYI—for First Year Interface. Increased funding—from Fun Funds or other sources—for programming also meant more opportunities for student-led activities.
Dr. Dunlap was among “50 remarkable people” invited to present at the prestigious TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) conference in Monterey, Calif., in March 2007. He joined such notables as former President Bill Clinton, former NBA star and author Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, and Sir Richard Branson, founder of the Virgin Group. Dunlap is believed to be the only college president to have ever participated in the exclusive program. His participation in this conference and other seminars, such as the Aspen Institute, Henry Crown Fellowship the Faculty Seminars at Wye, the Aspen-Rodel Fellowship, the Africa Leadership Initiative, the Central European Leadership Initiative, and the Liberty Fellowship—all have brought attention to Wofford.