It has been an incredible fall! Throughout Family Weekend, Homecoming, the Southern Conference Undergraduate Research Forum, the dedication of the Mungo Student Center, “Terriers Together” alumni events, visiting speakers, art shows and admission discovery days, we have celebrated community and found ways to gather around our shared love of Wofford College. Thank you to all who participated. If you could not return to campus to join in the fun, this issue is for you because it includes photo essays that share a glimpse of our community at work and play. Enjoy!

During Homecoming Weekend, we held several events for the Class of 2020, including a celebration attended by almost 600 people on Sunday morning on the lawn of Main Building. The college bell tolled for each member of the class, faculty read the names of each person who graduated during the year and we all watched as the class, bound forever by resilience and adversity, sang the alma mater arm in arm to conclude the program. It was a moving day, one that demonstrated once again the power of experiences shared and friendships made over four years at Wofford College.

This issue also includes stories of graduates who are paying it forward — as scholarship donors, faculty mentors and role models. These individuals understand the impact of the Wofford experience, and we appreciate the opportunity to share their stories and how they contribute to student success.

There is no question that the Wofford experience is special, and everyone who participated in collaborative research over the summer.

It was a moving day, one that demonstrated once again the power of experiences shared and friendships made over four years at Wofford College.
A commitment to the student experience inspired Maria and Steven Mungo ’81 to fund renovations to the Mungo Student Center, formerly the Campus Life Building. During the ribbon cutting, the ceremonial scissors were dull and wouldn't cut through the fabric. Steven quickly pulled out his utility knife and solved the problem — practical problem solving at work. Enjoying the moment with the Mungos were (from left) the Rev. Dr. Ron Robinson ’78, President Nayef Samhat, Board Chair Chris Carpenter ’90 and Campus Union President Dylan Goshorn ’22.

Where thought leads.
CELEBRATION OF UNDERREPRESENTED ARTISTS

Two collections showcasing works by traditionally underrepresented artists were exhibited in the Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts during the fall semester. “Elevation from Within: The Study of Art at Historically Black Colleges and Universities” and “Place, Memory and Identity: Contemporary Korean-American Women Artists” focus on diversity and marginalized artists. The exhibits will be on display through Dec. 15.

Read more online.

BLUE DUCK SCOOTERS

Wofford has partnered with Blue Duck, an e-scooter company, to give the campus community options when traveling across campus or to Spartanburg’s downtown. Wofford is the fifth college campus in the United States to have an agreement with the company. Earlier this year, Spartanburg became the 11th location nationwide to receive a fleet of scooters. The scooters have GPS technology.

Read more online.

RESEARCH TO SAVE CORAL REEFS

Dr. Geoffrey Mitchell and students are conducting research to save coral reefs. The work is being supported by a three-year $385,000 National Science Foundation grant. The corals responsible for making reefs colorful are becoming bleached as sea temperatures rise. Mitchell and his students are looking for answers through cellular biology that will protect ocean health.

Read more online.

FORAGING HABITS OF SONGBIRDS

Biology faculty Dr. Lori Cruze and Dr. John Moeller led students on a research project that’s for the birds. The project measured the impact of different variables on the foraging habits of songbirds. There was a bonus aspect: “There are mental health benefits from being able to sit and relax, observe birds and hear their songs,” Cruze says.

Read more online.

BLOGGING WHILE ABROAD

Ten students studying abroad during the fall semester are blogging. The exercise helps them reflect on experiences and allows others to gain insight into the college’s study abroad program. “Not only are you documenting your experiences and what you’ve learned for your future self, but you’re also bringing to life your experience abroad for prospective students,” says Olivia Free ’22.

Read more online.

ANTICIPATING A NEW BOOKSTORE

The Wofford College Bookstore will relocate to a new development at 578 N. Church St. The new space in The Hub will allow the college to reimagine how the bookstore has traditionally been viewed while having the capacity and flexibility to serve as an event venue for the college and community organizations. Interim Provost Tim Schmitz represented the college during the ceremony and talked about our growing relationship with the Northside community.

Read more online.

TERRIERS TOGETHER

Grateful for opportunities to gather

FAMILY WEEKEND

New and enduring legacies

HOMECOMING & THE CLASS OF 2020

Back together on campus

CLASS NOTES

Alumni updates, Terriers in the news, in memoriam

LASTING IMPACT

Dr. Mandy Mills Dailey ’07 wants others to enjoy all that Wofford has to offer

THEY’RE HERE

Documentary series highlights bond between Patterson brothers

HAYNES ON THE SET

Look for this Wofford grad in “Defying the Odds”

T.R. GARRISON CHAIR OF HUMANITIES

Ferguson committed to student opportunity

TAKING CHARGE

Hill leads NCAA scholarship committee

WOFFORD WAY UNITY FUND

Members of the Class of 1969 provide support for justice, equity initiatives

WOFFORD CLIMBS IN U.S. NEWS RANKINGS

Wofford remains one of the nation’s top liberal arts colleges, a best value and a top performer in social mobility, according to U.S. News & World Report. The most recent rankings have Wofford No. 67 on the report’s list of national liberal arts colleges, No. 52 among best values and No. 73 in social mobility.

Read more online.
Homecoming isn’t just for alumni. Wofford students enjoyed the traditional Homecoming carnival sponsored by Campus Life and Student Development.
We missed each other. Fall 2021 made that perfectly clear, as evidenced by the back-to-back-to-back photo features in this issue of Wofford Today. As usual, Mark Olencki ’75, college photographer, captured the joy of Terriers back together experiencing Wofford, whether at work or play.

Outdoor classes became more and more popular over the course of the pandemic, and Dr. Vicki Gilbert, assistant professor of government, is a role model in how to make these unorthodox classroom experiences effective. Competition resumed for Wofford’s athletics teams, and fans came out to enjoy watching the Terriers compete. There were blessings of the books and blessings of the animals, led by the Rev. Dr. Ron Robinson ’78, Perkins-Prothro Chaplain and Professor of Religion, and opportunities for students to get to know each other as Orientation resumed in person this fall.

These gatherings required additional planning and attention to detail. Masks were still required indoors in public spaces, but they were optional outdoors and in residence halls and private homes on campus. The college’s high vaccination rate combined with the mask mandate proved effective, and students took advantage of the relaxed gathering guidelines.
1. The Wofford cross country teams opened their season at the Eye Opener at the Roger Milliken Research Center Park. The women finished second and the men fourth overall.

2. To help first-year students settle into college, Campus Life and Student Development organized a series of events for the First 54 (from 1854) days of the fall semester. This event was an RA Pop-In on the Greene Hall lawn.

3. The Career Center began the fall semester with a block party. Students came for the food, games, prizes and information on how to make use of the center’s services.

4. Wofford men’s soccer fell in the quarterfinals of the Southern Conference tournament, but the season included plenty of celebratory moments.

5. Students and faculty enjoyed an afternoon of improvisational events during the Art TASK party.

6. The Study Abroad Fair brought international partner organizations to campus to share information with students.

7. Students in Art History 330 got hands-on experience in curation in the Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts.
The college dedicated the Elliott F. “Eli” Sanders Plaza at Gibbs Stadium in October, and Sanders’ son, Greg, and his wife, Melissa, and their children, Elliott and McRae, attended the ceremony. Sanders ’54 was a Hall of Fame student-athlete on the college’s football team and continues to be a generous supporter of the college, making annual gifts to the Terrier Club as well as supporting a variety of capital projects. The plaza also includes an installation that shares the history of Wofford football.

PumpkinFest, sponsored by Campus Life and Student Development, is a highlight of the fall semester. The carved pumpkins are placed on the steps of Main Building in the shape of a W and lit to celebrate Halloween.

Wofford Theatre presented Twilight Bowl in November. The play is based in a small-town Wisconsin bowling alley, where a few friends gather and soon recognize the divide widening between them. The play was directed by Dan Day, associate professor of theatre, and included a cast and crew of 35 Wofford students.

The seniors on the women’s tennis team enjoyed their poster photo shoot.

The Class of 2024 made up for several missed orientation activities this fall during the inaugural Sophomore Week. Signing their class banner was one of the activities.

After missing the fall 2020 football season, students were eager to return to tailgating.
14. Students led efforts to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month in October.

15. Kappa Delta sorority held its annual Shamrock and Shuck event to raise funds for philanthropy.

16. Former South Carolina Gov. David Beasley came to campus as part of the Hipp Center for National Security and Foreign Policy’s Lecture Series. Beasley is now executive director of the World Food Programme.

17. The Wofford College bell tolls for each of the college’s graduates three times in their lives. It tolls to welcome each first-year student during their first week on campus. It tolls to celebrate their graduation. Finally, it tolls on All Saints’ Day after their deaths. The college held its annual “All Saints Remembrance Tolling of the Bell” ceremony on Nov. 1. The names of students, staff, faculty, alumni and friends of the college who have died during the past year were read as the bell tolled 150 times.

18. Jim Hackney ’77 was a guest speaker for the Art History 303 curation class. Hackney, a former senior director of development at the Yale Divinity School, spent a good portion of his career in fundraising for arts organizations. He is a current trustee at the Penland School of Craft in Bakersville, N.C.

19. 429 the Road Boss, Wofford’s new food truck, offers grab-and-go favorites from Campus Drive near Main Building. Students were all smiles on its first day of service.

20. Students, faculty and test participants in one of the new test rooms in the Roger Milliken Science Center.

Other images from the fall include:
• Spanish 303 students reading children’s books in Spanish to each other to practice their speaking, listening and comprehension skills.
• Oktoberfest fun.
• Sliding and shagging.
• Environmental studies labs.
• Career Center BIPOC lunch.
• The Wofford Invitational of Atlanta.
• History 305 warfare demonstration.
• Southern Conference Undergraduate Research Forum.
Finance students learned about investing and microloans from Melinda Clark, director of development at Esperanza International. Alumni and friends returned for the Terrier Club 75th anniversary party. Students listened, learned and discussed. They ate ice cream and found joy in their teammates and friends.

Yes, we are grateful for the fall semester and opportunities to gather!
Parents, siblings and other relatives and friends converged at Wofford College in October for Family Weekend.

“This weekend allows families to experience campus life while learning more about the many opportunities that Wofford provides,” says Thom Henson ’96, director of parent engagement. “It’s also a special time to build relationships and friendships with other Wofford families.”

One of the events held during the weekend included a reception hosted by President Nayef Samhat and Prema Samhat for the Class of 2024.

“At colleges and universities across the country, the Class of 2024 experienced a first year of college unlike any class before them and unlike the class that we just welcomed to the college in August,” Nayef Samhat says. “While we managed the preservation and integrity of the academic program, the experience was far from typical, and that includes the college’s traditional Family Weekend.”

Welcoming families from the Class of 2024 and the Class of 2025 into the Wofford community was a priority during Family Weekend. The weekend also allowed the college to recognize the Class of 2022, students who participated in research over the summer, Wofford’s choral groups, student-athletes and Wofford legacies during the Order of 1854 Heritage Society Brunch.

There were also academic departmental receptions, a fun run/walk, a meeting of the Parents Leadership Council and fraternity and sorority social events.

Most importantly, students got the chance to visit with their families and show them their home away from home.
New and enduring legacies
FAMILY WEEKEND

New and enduring legacies
Terriers made up for lost time when they returned to Wofford College in October for a Homecoming that held both tradition and opportunities to innovate. Reunions combined two classes, so those who missed out on their reunion during 2020 because of the pandemic joined with those scheduled for reunions in 2021 for twice the fun. There was also an all-alumni band party at Main Building that brought in several thousand.

The Alumni Association honored five individuals for their leadership and service.

Bryan Blair ’07 of Pullman, Wash., deputy director of athletics and chief operating officer in the athletics department at Washington State University, was awarded the Pride of Wofford Award. His parents, Dannie and Woodrow Blair of Bennettsville, S.C., accepted the award on his behalf.

Rex Maynard ’69 of Belton, S.C., owner of Maynard’s Home Furnishings, was given the Charles H. Gray ’72 Distinguished Service Award.

The Rising Star awards were given to Margaret Deans Fawcett Grantz ’13 of Columbia, S.C., a co-founder and director of development for a nonprofit, and Caitlynn Myer ’18 of Spartanburg, a Limestone University professor and program coordinator.

David Britt ’77 of Spartanburg, a vice president for Tindall Corp. and a Spartanburg County councilman, was recognized with the Distinguished Citizen Award.

Homecoming 2021 also included football, tailgating and informal gatherings. Read more about the alumni award winners (right) at wofford.edu/woffordtoday.
In addition to reunions and fun around game time, the college’s Black Alumni Association and the Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion held the annual Black Alumni Summit. Each year during that event, the Black Alumni Association awards a travel grant. This year’s recipient was Hannah Sterling ’23, a finance and Spanish major from Snellville, Ga. Robert Mickle ’85 and Vickie Muller ’83 presented the award.
Wofford students selected Sopharathdy Vorn ’22 as the 2021 Homecoming Queen. Destiny Shippy ’22 and Anne Darby Keating ’22 were finalists. Tae’von Gibbs ’25 was crowned Mr. Wofford.
A story will always follow Wofford College’s Class of 2020.

It was the college’s first graduating class in 159 years not to have Commencement exercises. The apostrophe and No. 20 that’ll be by their names in alumni updates will represent more than the year they graduated.

The college celebrated them during Homecoming weekend with a variety of events, including a party around the fire pit donated and named in their honor and a Class of 2020 celebration held on Sunday morning on the lawn of Main Building. There Chris Carpenter ’90, chairman of the college’s Board of Trustees, announced an endowed scholarship in their honor.

Honor graduates — Sydney McHugh and Leila Shearer — were honored on stage, and class officers — Curneisha Williams, president; Alex Konrad, vice president; Braden Tuttle, secretary; and Connor Kreese, treasurer, shared memories of the class. Each name was called, and the bell tolled for each person who graduated during 2020.
HOMECOMING

Back together on campus
2020

In honor of the Class of 2020, we flipped the Class Notes section of Wofford Today for this issue. Congratulations on these and other accomplishments. We hope you’ll continue to send in your life updates to alumni@wofford.edu and your story ideas to woffordtoday@wofford.edu.

Lucas Cerbeili is an investment banking analyst with 7 Mile Advisors in Charlotte, N.C. Katie Cronister graduated from the University of San Francisco with a master’s degree in data science. She began her career as a data scientist for Oncoocyte in early September.

Taven LeBlond is a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army, stationed in Fairbanks, Alaska. Michelle Malch is working at Parkside Pediatrics in Greenville, S.C. Rebecca Marsile is enrolled in the doctor of physical therapy program at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, N.C.

Mary Kathryn McGregor is a member of the class of 2020 at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine in Columbia, S.C.

Abbie Nance is a patient advocate at AccessOne in Fort Mill, S.C.

Reagan Owens is a consulting analyst in the office of the GEO at MUSC Health in Charleston, S.C.

Sam Ross is an agency and operations senior specialist at InvestNet in Greenville, S.C.

Wells Williams is manager of Lizard’s Thicket in Columbia, S.C.

2018

Blakely Elizabeth Graham and Drake H. McCormick were married on June 19, 2021, at Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church in Georgetown, S.C. The couple resides in Charleston, S.C. Drake is a financial advisor with Synovus Securities in Charleston. Blakely is completing dental school at the Medical University of South Carolina’s James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine.

2017

Scottie Kay Auton has been named Spartanburg County’s communications manager. Before joining the county, she was a reporter with WSPA-TV in Spartanburg.

Evan Hammond, a financial advisor and field director of Northwestern Mutual’s office in Charleston, S.C., was selected as a 2021 honoree of the Charleston Regional Business Journal’s 40 Under 40 recognition.

Andrew Novak and Madison Myers ’19 were married on Dec. 19, 2020, in St. Simon’s Island, Ga. In August, Andrew became the second golfer in Wofford program history to earn his PGA Tour card by securing a top-25 season finish on the Korn Ferry Tour.

2015

Mills Reigel and Joe Nelson ’16 were married on May 29, 2021. The couple resides in Philadelphia, Pa.

2014

Maria Davenport graduated with a master’s degree in public health from the University of Florida in spring 2021. She is a senior clinical research coordinator at the University of Virginia Cancer Center, where she coordinates all of the clinical trials with lung cancer patients.

Mackenzie “Mack” Walker has been promoted to senior vice president and director of capital markets at DePapeh in Charlotte, N.C. He joined the company six years ago and was previously vice president of capital markets.

2012

Hayes Brown reached the semifinals of the 4A’s U.S. Mid-Amateur Golf Championships in September. His path to the semifinals included a victory over the No. 1 seed in the tournament.

Hilary Riley Honey has been named assistant professor of pediatrics at Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine in Blacksburg, Va., where she teaches medical students and works as a pediatric hospitalist.

Emily Howe Learned and Michael Learned were married on Sept. 4, 2021, in Charleston, N.C. She is the human resources coordinator for the town of Waxhaw, N.C.

CLASS NOTES

LASTING IMPACT

DR. MANDY MILLS DAILEY ’07 WANTS OTHERS TO ENJOY ALL THAT WOFFORD HAS TO OFFER

By Dailey Brown

Dr. Mandy Mills Dailey ’07 cherishes her Wofford memories. Her favorite moments include being a student-athlete, attending campus social functions and interim travel.

She and her family want to ensure that future Terriers have the same opportunities through the Dailey Family Endowed Fund to support the college’s track and cross country teams.

“The Dailey Family Endowed Fund to support their college’s track and cross country teams. “Endowing a scholarship for the women’s cross country and track teams allows us to give back to the college in a way that hopefully strengthens the program and enhances the recruitment of well-rounded student-athletes,” says Dailey, an optometrist in Houston, Texas. As a student Dailey embodied the definition of well-rounded.

She was a biology major with a minor in business, who also participated in various student organizations, a sorority and the admission ambassador program, all while lettering in cross country and indoor and outdoor track. She also traveled to Greece and Italy during one of her January Interim experiences.

“I hope that our contribution allows future student-athletes the opportunity to experience everything Wofford College has to offer,” Dailey says.

Johnny Bomar, Wofford’s head track and cross country coach, expects the scholarship to be a useful recruiting tool. “This scholarship will help us greatly,” Bomar says. “By offering this scholarship to a deserving student-athlete, we can say you’re our first choice. It definitely gives us a competitive advantage.”

Dailey was a recipient of the C. Bruce Littlejohn Endowed Scholarship while attending Wofford. She and her husband, Zach Dailey, used matching gifts from his employer to establish their fund.

“Providing a gift to the college you love is a rewarding, gratifying experience, and it can have a lasting impact on Wofford’s financial sustainability for many years to come,” Dailey says. “If your employer offers a matching gift program, we certainly encourage everyone to use it.”

Zach Dailey understands and appreciates the impact Wofford had on Mandy’s life. “I attended Vanderbilt University on a tennis scholarship,” he says. “Wofford has become important to me because I know how much the academic, athletic and social aspects of the college meant to Mandy. She made wonderful lifelong friends at Wofford, and we’re thrilled to be able to give back. Supporting our alma maters has been one of our goals, and we’re thrilled to see it come to fruition.”

CALL TO ACTION

Submit your news and updates electronically by visiting wofford.edu/alumni and clicking “Share Your Story.”

Write to us at Wofford Alumni
429 N. Church St.
Spartanburg, S.C. 29303

Call the Alumni Office
at 864-597-4185.

Stay in touch with the college and other alumni through WOFFORDCONNECT!

The online service allows you to:

• Update your personal profile.
• Adjust your privacy settings to control what, if any, of your profile will be available for other alumni to see.
• Search for classmates by industry, location and more.
• Sign up for myMentor to connect with current students.
• View your giving history.
• View and pay your pledge.
• Manage your communications preferences.

For more information, contact the Wofford College Alumni Association at alumni@wofford.edu.
Caroline Franks Mahoney and Carter Mahoney welcomed a son, Evan Richard Mahoney, on Aug. 24, 2021. The family lives in Charlotte, N.C., with their golden retriever, Magnolia.

2011

William Thomas Mills, senior brokerage associate at Trinity Partners in Columbia, S.C., has been recognized by Marquis Who’s Who Top Executives for dedication, achievement and leadership in commercial real estate.

Dr. Douglas S. Schultz Jr. has joined Midlands Orthopedics and Neurosurgery in Columbia, S.C. A member of the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Hip and Knee Surgeons, he specializes in joint arthroplasty and total joint replacement.

2010

Mark Chappell Jr. has been named a partner in the law firm of Chappell Smith and Arden in Columbia, S.C.

2009

John Robert Barth recently became a franchisee owner of The Flying Biscuit located at 936 Harden St. in Columbia, S.C. Plans are to open in mid-November or early December.

They’re Here

DOCUMENTARY SERIES HIGHLIGHTS BOND BETWEEN PATTERSON BROTHERS

by Robert W. Dalton

Pat Patterson ’92 has donated flowing gowns and flowing wigs and entertained people under the name Patti O’Furniture for 22 years.

For one night this past May, his brother, Olin Patterson, a former Wofford employee, slipped into a dress and joined him on stage.

The bond between the brothers and the preparation leading up to that performance was one of the storylines on the second-season premiere of the HBO documentary series “We’re Here,” which aired on Oct. 11. Pat Patterson hosted a public viewing, attended by about 200 people, at Barnet Park in Spartanburg. The episode can be viewed on the HBO Max app.

“The bond between Pat Patterson and I is really a fitting celebration of a wonderful family, a family that has this to say about the upcoming Christmas holiday:

“Christmas is the time when we celebrate the coming of One who taught men a better way of living than the selfish life that men are wont to live. We are supposed to make others happy at this time of the year, or that is what we have been taught to believe. We often think of Christmas as a holiday, and not as a holy day, and this is natural, for Christmas is both. It might be well, though, to think of ourselves as we are, and as we were last Christmas, and as we may be next Christmas. It’s really not a bad idea.”

“Maybe someone will see my brother and everything that he did, and they can be more accepting,” Pat said. “Or if there are kids who are feeling different, they’ll realize that there are people out here like them, and they won’t commit suicide or hurt themselves with drugs. Whether it’s Gattysburg, Pennsylvania; Temecula, California; or Spartanburg, South Carolina, we’re here.”

FROM THE ARCHIVES

THE JOURNAL AND THE HOLIDAYS

by Dr. Phillip Stone ’94, college archivist

The bond between Pat Patterson ’92, left, and Olin Patterson, a former Wofford employee, was one of the storylines featured in the second-season premiere of the HBO documentary series "We’re Here.”

Pat and Olin sat side by side while the images flashed on the inflatable screen. Olin was moved to tears by one scene in which he talked about sticking up for his brother.

Olin says he and his brother were already close, but this experience drew them even closer.

“The bond between Pat Patterson and I is really a fitting celebration of a wonderful family, a family that...”

Wofford’s student publications have a history going back over 130 years, and they are always a great source for learning about activities and sentiments on campus. The Journal, the college’s literary magazine, often had editorials and local news stories as well as short stories and poems.

The December 1923 editorial in the Journal had this to say about the upcoming Christmas holiday:

“Christmas is the time when we celebrate the coming of One who taught men a better way of living than the selfish life that men are wont to live. We are supposed to make others happy at this time of the year, or that is what we have been taught to believe. We often think of Christmas as a holiday, and not as a holy day, and this is natural, for Christmas is both. It might be well, though, to think of ourselves as we are, and as we were last Christmas, and as we may be next Christmas. It’s really not a bad idea.”

“And then, too, we go home, back to the surroundings, friends and acquaintances that we have known since we first began to live. We are back at home to live again and fit ourselves for another year’s life and work. There is nothing quite like a family coming home again for Christmas. It really brings the threads of life together again and makes us better able to appreciate some things and makes us able to see things in a proper perspective. Christmas is really a fitting celebration of a wonderful occasion.”

1997

Lauren Matton Curry has been named chief operating officer in the office of Georgia Gov. Brian P. Kemp. Curry previously served as director of government affairs and policy for Kemp.

Mel Wilson has joined United Community Bank as branch manager for the Waynesville, N.C., office.

1994

John Grigsby “Grig” Sawyer has been named graduation and dropout coordinator for Lexington County (S.C.) School District Three.

1990

Murrell Smith Jr., a co-founding partner of Smith Robinson Law Firm, has been named to the 2021 list of The Best Lawyers in America.
Bradford Haynes ’05 said yes to playing Bill Lester in the upcoming film “Defying the Odds” before he saw the script.

“I was down in Savannah finishing a film with John Travolta, Bruce Willis and Blake Jennen when I got a call from director Corry Weins,” says Haynes. Haynes and Weins were scheduled to do another racing movie before COVID-19, but those plans changed during the pandemic. “My grandfather raced. I raced dirt bikes and go-carts before taking a few turns on dirt tracks. I’m pumped to be a part of this.”

“Defying the Odds” is an adaptation of the Bill Lester autobiography. Lester is one of only seven Black drivers to compete in a NASCAR Cup series event and is the first African American to win a NASCAR Grand-Am race. A University of California Berkeley graduate, Lester spent 15 years as an electrical engineer and computer scientist with Hewlett-Packard before his wife convinced him to follow his dream of becoming a professional driver at the age of 40.

“It’s going great,” says Haynes of filming, which began in October in Nashville. “I really wanted to do Bill justice, so I watched him doing interviews to get his mannerisms, and I grew out a mustache for the role — my wife and kids thought it was hilarious. He’s soft-spoken and so well-educated. Bill has the heart of a champion, anyone does to get behind the wheel going 140 to 150 miles per hour.”

Haynes was a student-athlete on the Wofford baseball team. He landed his first role in front of the camera during an interim, but didn’t pursue acting as a career until after making a run as a professional baseball player, first with a Dodgers minor league team, then in Australia and Japan. He’s now done dozens of commercials with brands such as The Home Depot, Pepsi, Nike and Budweiser. Haynes also has been busy lately doing a variety of movies. The Travolta/Willis film “Paradise City” comes out in early 2022. Haynes plays the captain of the local police department. He also recently finished filming “War of the Worlds,” a military film with Alec and Billy Baldwin.

Haynes is particularly interested in the “Best Summer Ever,” a musical filmed in collaboration with Maggie Gyllenhaal, Peter Sarsgaard, Benjaman Bratt, Jamie Lee Curtis, Ted Danson and a cast and crew with disabilities.

“There are only about 1% of people with disabilities in our industry,” says Haynes, who plays a singing and dancing high school football coach. “It was shot at Zeno Mountain Farm, an incredible community in Vermont. It was such an honor to learn more and be a part of that experience.”

Haynes’s own company, B2H Haynes Production, also has been successful since it was established seven years ago. In 2021 he partnered with Light of Life films and director and friend Matt McCauley. They shot a faith-based movie called “UnDefiled,” in which Haynes plays a minor league baseball player who stumbles across a sex trafficking ring.

“Anytime I can do faith-based or create a project where I’m shining a light in a positive way, that’s always my goal, especially with having children now,” says Haynes. “I want them to be proud of the work I do. I also love being a creator and executive producer because it gives me the opportunity to create something from scratch and watch it grow.”

Haynes is working with the “UnDefiled” writers and creators on other projects that will be ready in 2022. He’s particularly excited because his daughter, Addison, is making her film debut as Haynes’ screen daughter in one of the movies.

“One of my commercials came on television, and Addison didn’t know that I had a daughter in this commercial. She looks at me and says, ‘Daddy, I don’t like that you have other children for pretend.’” says Haynes, who explained that sometimes that’s just part of the job. Addison decided then that she would start auditioning for roles as Haynes’ on-screen daughter. “I love it because she, Lauren Grace and Kyrsten, my wife, are my biggest supporters and fans — in addition to my dad, of course, who never missed a Wofford baseball game — yet when I’m at home, I’m just daddy, who cooks, cleans, does laundry and takes the girls to school. As Kyrsten likes to say, ‘You’re back in reality now.’”

Photo courtesy of Ryan Atenham and Ryan Green
expenses to archives and libraries in New York, London and Vienna to conduct research on the artistic legacies of exiled Jewish Austrian artists Bettina Bauer-Ehrlich, Lisel Salzer and Lisl Weil.

Talicia Murphy, director of student activities, in September was inducted into the Florence (S.C.) School District 2 Athletics Hall of Fame. Murphy competed in basketball and cheer at Hanahall-Pamplico High School, but excelled in track and field. She won four Class A state championships and was named Class A Player of the Year in 2014, was a four-time all-region selection and holds school records in the long jump, triple jump and 100-meter dash.

Dr. Patricia Nuriel, associate professor of Spanish, co-edited the volume “Interviews with Latin American Women Filmmakers,” a special issue of the Journal Post Script: Essays in Film and the Humanities. She also contributed to one of the interviews, “Jeanine Meerapfel’s Films on Memory and the Argentine Dictatorship: A Retrospective.”

Dr. Grace Schwartz, assistant professor of chemistry, and coauthors have had the article “Incorporating concentration-dependent sediment microbial activity into methymercury production kinetics modeling” accepted for publication in Environmental Science: Processes and Impacts. Additionally, Schwartz and coauthors have had the article “Consistent controls on trace metal micronutrient speciation in wetland soils and stream sediments” accepted for publication in Geochemical et Cosmochimica Acta.

Dr. Patrick Stanton, assistant professor of finance, and Dr. Philip Swicegood, R. Michael James Professor and chair of accounting, business and finance, and others have published the article “Cost-Effective Portfolio Hedging: A Dividend-funded Derivative Approach” in the International Business & Economics Studies Journal.


The NCRA’s postgraduate scholarship program does get a lot of attention. Dr. Jameica Byers Hill ’88 plans to change that.

Hill, professor and chair of chemistry and the faculty athletics representative, began a two-year term as chair of the national NCAA postgraduate scholarship committee on Sept. 1. She was an FCS representative on the seven-member committee the past two years and was a unanimous choice to lead the group at the committee’s most recent meeting in July.

“When people think of the NCRA, they think athletics, athletics, athletics,” Hill says. “The postgraduate scholarship program is one of several programs they have that doesn’t get the attention it deserves. I hope to change that.”

The committee awards 126 $10,000 non-renewable scholarships each year to student-athletes who have exhausted their eligibility and wish to pursue advanced degrees. Meetings are held three times a year, and scholarships are awarded to 21 women and 21 men at each meeting.

“Selections are based on academic achievements, athletic accolades and community service or leadership,” Hill says. “A student-athlete is doing a one-year accelerated master’s degree program, he or she can get it done with this scholarship.”

Hill, who has been Wofford’s faculty athletics representative since 2006 and chair of the NCAA postgraduate scholarship committee since 2007, says her first order of business as committee chair will be to make sure more student-athletes are aware of the program and of others that offer fewer awards but more money. She says she also intends to target Wofford student-athletes earlier in their careers to prepare them so they’ll be more competitive for the awards.

TAKING CHARGE
HILL LEADS NCAA SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
by Robert W. Dalton
Richard Crook Adkins, Sept. 10, 2021, Fort McClellan, Ala. As a career officer, Adkins pursued a professional acting career. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, reaching the rank of first lieutenant. He played baseball and was a cheerleader while at Wofford. He enjoyed tennis and was a competitive shag dancer. He also enjoyed choreographing dances that incorporated steps from the many forms of dance he pursued. He was an outdoor enthusiast who enjoyed fishing and taking trail rides with his grandchildren and their friends. He was an active member of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, where he served on the vestry.

Rev. James Franklin Hood, July 16, 2021, Seymour, Tenn. Hood served more than 40 years with the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. He enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren, watching sports and fishing.

Dr. Benjamin Louis Allen Jr., Sept. 9, 2021, Greenville, S.C. Allen was the chief of staff at the Shriners Hospital for Children in Greenville from 1989 to 2006. He served in the U.S. Air Force Reserve, achieving the rank of first lieutenant.

Dr. Julius Howard “Jay” Stokes Jr., Aug. 30, 2021, Georgetown, S.C. Stokes graduated from the Medical University of South Carolina and completed his internship in medicine at Lassenius Medical Center in Philadelphia, Pa., and completed his residency in ophthalmology at Wilf Eye Hospital in Philadelphia. His medical training was interrupted by the Vietnam War, where he served as a captain in the U.S. Army. He was chief of ophthalmology at Fort Rucker Army Medical Center in Alabama and also was the ophthalmology instructor at the Medical Training School for Flight Surgeons for the Army and the Air Force. After completing his medical and ophthalmology training, he returned to Florence, S.C., where he practiced with his father and two brothers at the Stokes Regional Eye Center. He was a past president of the Florence County Medical Society. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and spending time on his boat, The Flounder.

Dr. John Herbert Ferguson, Aug. 30, 2021, Little Mountain, S.C. Ferguson practiced 36 of his 40 years in family medicine at the Pinner Clinic in Pick, S.C. He was a member of the Medical University of South Carolina College of Medicine Alumni Board of Directors, where he continued to serve as mentor and clinical instructor to medical students until his retirement in October 2020. He was a member of Lake Murray Presbyterian Church, serving as an elder and as a member of the missions committee. He was the scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 273 for 27 years, guiding 55 young men to attain the rank of Eagle Scout and leading nine crews to Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, N.M. He loved music, the outdoors and cycling.

Dr. Russell Austin “Rusty” Kelley, Sept. 3, 2021, Columbia, S.C. Kelley participated in ROTC at Wofford and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army after graduating. He trained in air defense artillery at Fort Bliss, Texas, and later returned to Fort Jackson as a training officer. After his military service, he began a career in the financial industry. He retired in 2019. He enjoyed recreational boating and was a skilled fly fisherman and an occasional golfer.

Dr. Samuel Alexander Gothran Jr., Aug. 10, 2021, Summerville, S.C. Gothran worked in the newspaper business for a number of years before launching a career in insurance that spanned decades. At one time, he owned the largest insurance agency in the area. He also owned a travel agency for a number of years. An avid outdoorsman, hunter and fisherman, he was a member of several hunt clubs and also was a longtime volunteer with Ducks Unlimited, including serving as state public relations chairman. He was a member of the Carolina Yacht Club, the Jameson County Society and the St. Andrews Society.

Charles Lecel Alley, Aug. 28, 2021, Concord, N.C. Alley was a longtime corporate executive, developing and teaching leadership classes for Bank and Rank of America. He enjoyed writing and telling stories, ancestry research and traveling.

Marion Broadus Welborn Jr., Sept. 17, 2021, Anderson, S.C. He was the former owner and operator of Welborn Shoes. He later worked in real estate and as an auctioneer. He was a member of St. John’s United Methodist Church.

Edgar Vaughn Fetzer, Sept. 18, 2021, Durango, Colo. An experienced mountaineer, Fetzer was on a solo trip in the Sange de Cristo Mountain Range when he fell during his descent from Blanca Peak. He had more than 30 years of experience in real estate and as an auctioneer. He was a member of St. John’s United Methodist Church.

Gerhard Grommer, Aug. 26, 2021, Spartanburg, S.C. Grommer and his family have owned and operated Gerhard’s Café in Spartanburg for 28 years. He graduated from the Hotel Austria Culinary School and earned the title of master chef. He was an avid hunter and fisherman and enjoyed spending time on his farm. He was the father of Josef Grommer ‘12, a former football player and track and field student-athlete.

Cynthia Elizabeth Moseley, Aug. 28, 2021, Spartanburg, S.C. A graduate of Converse College, Moseley gathered, organized and documented family papers and other possessions, which now form the Moseley Collection held by the Spartanburg County Public Libraries. She was a user and advocate for the local library, which named its upper-level gallery and meeting space Cynthia Elizabeth Moseley Gallery in her honor. For a time, she worked for the Social Security Administration and the Converse College Library. She was a member of the Episcopal Church of the Advent. She was long active in Spartanburg life, particularly the arts. Her grandfather, Daniel Allston Elko, a graduate of Clemson University, was a state senator and as such was known for his paintings of surreal figures.

Robert Cunningham Richards Sr., Aug. 17, 2021, Clover, S.C. Richards was a plant operations engineer with Wofford. He was a captain in the Army Corps of Engineers during the Vietnam War, where his primary function was oversight of mobile Bailey bridge construction. After his service in Vietnam, he helped fulfill his father’s lifelong dream of owning a farm in Elko, Ga. A graduate of Clemson University, he served for a number of years on the university’s agricultural engineering advisory board.
We’re trying to address poverty for the students who wouldn’t otherwise have access to capital. The James-Atkins Student-Managed Investment Fund provided $56,000—$7,000 each year over the past eight years. The fund has helped the University of the Dominican Republic provide chicken and fresh juices. It was all made possible by Robert W. Dalton.

According to the National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement (NSLVE), 66% of college students voted in the 2020 elections, a 14% increase from 2016. Wofford’s campus voting rate was 75.5%, which was an increase of 25.4% from the 2016 election. Wofford’s percentage of students eligible to vote was 93% in 2020, which was more than 10 points higher than it was in 2016. The college also had 80.8% of its eligible students vote in 2020, which was 20 points higher than 2016.

“This recognition is largely possible because several students took an active role in advocating for voter participation before and during the 2020 election and hundreds of students were involved in a social media challenge,” says Allan Lolli ‘15, assistant dean of students for residence life and community standards and the dean for the sophomore class.

“Our voter engagement plan is an ongoing project as new students arrive on campus each year and they embrace this civic responsibility.” This was the challenge’s third biennial awards recognition. Wofford has been recognized with NSLVE’s bronze seal twice, in 2017 and 2019. There are currently 19 states participating in the ALL IN State Voting Challenges, encompassing more than 426 institutions enrolling 4.3 million students. ALL IN is a national, nonpartisan initiative of Civic Nation, a 501(c)(3) organization.

In addition to the NSLVE recognition, Wofford has earned the highest voter registration and the highest voter turnout awards for the athletics challenges awards from the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge for nonpartisan student voter participation efforts in the 2020 election. That award was presented during the SoCon Votes Athletic Challenges Awards Ceremony on Nov. 10.

In a small community in the eastern corner of the Dominican Republic, Santa Rhina Barette Figaro has a thriving business where she sells bread,, fried chicken and fresh juices. It was all made possible by Robert W. Dalton.

“I experienced day care with the locals and was very immersed in the Japanese culture,” Durrath says.

“Leroy Durrah arrived on Wofford’s campus as a member of the U.S. Army National Guard. He was a member of the Terriers football team and had an agreement with the coaching staff to arrive a week late because of National Guard training. Durrath’s decision to pursue the Guard came after receiving a pitch from an Army recruiter who suggested he consider military service to have additional options for a career and a way to pay for college. He spent a year on the Wofford football team before leaving the squad to work and assist his family while earning his Wofford degree. His Army career included work as a computer analyst and other positions in information technology before becoming a recruiter and completing his Army service working in retention.

After retiring in 2018, he taught JROTC at Union County Comprehensive High School in Union, S.C., and his students assisted with the county’s Veterans Day parade. This Veterans Day was different. He’s enjoying retirement while considering other opportunities to serve others. His only Veterans Day plan was to enjoy a meal out with his wife.

“Family tradition Describes Chardonnay as a thrill seeker who often talks about when she’ll get to jump from planes. She also thinks through situations and about giving herself options.

“She didn’t have to go the military route,” Leroy Durrah says. “She already had scholarships for Wofford. That thrill for adventure comes from her competitive spirit.”

Chardonnay Durrath’s days often consist of 5 a.m. physical fitness tests with the Wofford College Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC), classwork and service with a couple of campus organizations.

Whenever she needs some words of encouragement or help keeping things in perspective while honing her leadership skills, her dad is just a phone call away. Durrath ‘23 is a government major from Roebuck, S.C. Her father, Leroy Durrath ‘92, served 30 years in the U.S. Army before retiring in 2018 at the rank of master sergeant.

“He says all the time that he’s lived seven lifetimes, and he has the stories to back it up,” Durrath says. Durrath took the U.S. Army oath at halftime of the college’s annual Salute to Service football game on Nov. 6. Leroy Durrath was in the stands thinking, “She’s one step closer to making the magic happen.”

Durrath would like to pursue a career as an Army Judge Advocate General’s Corps (JAG) officer. Many of her childhood memories are shaped by being part of a military family. She fondly remembers turning 4 years old on a flight to Japan while the family was relocating for one of her dad’s assignments.

“Less than 10% of the U.S. population has served in the U.S. military,” Leroy Durrah often shared lessons he learned and opportunities available through the military with his daughters, but he didn’t expect them to serve.

“My dad did a good job of raising my sister and me to make sure we had thick skin and structure shaped by his military background,” says Durrah, whose older sister recently completed eight years of service in the Army.

Leroy Durrah describes Chardonnay as a thrill seeker who often talks about when she’ll get to jump from planes. She believes through situations and about giving herself options.

“She didn’t have to go the military route,” Leroy Durrah says. “She already had scholarships for Wofford. That thrill for adventure comes from her competitive nature.” He appreciates opportunities to listen to his daughters and help them talk through plans.

“That’s something I’ve wanted to do since I was younger,” Leroy Durrah says. “To share my experiences and give advice and allow them to make decisions that are best for them is awesome.”

Chardonnay Durrath and her father share a special bond on Veterans Day.
For John Tally ’69, the Wofford Way Unity Fund’s mission came from an interview his wife conducted for a magazine article several years ago.

Tally says the man interviewed had been burned on over 90% of his body in an oil field accident. When he went out in public, people recoiled. He would tell them that if they would just take the time to get to know him, his scars would disappear.

“That’s a very powerful comment,” Tally says. It’s Tally’s belief, as well as the belief of 21 of his Wofford contemporaries, that providing resources that bring together groups that may not have the same backgrounds or beliefs will accomplish a more unified Wofford as well.

The Wofford Way Unity Fund was established during the summer of 2020 by this group of graduates to support justice, equity, diversity and inclusion efforts at the college.

“Almost one year after our 50th class reunion weekend on campus, social unrest and tension erupted nationwide following the death of George Floyd. The aftermath prompted renewed and vigorous debate on race around the country and at Wofford,” says Craig Davis ’69. “Faculty writings and student demands reached alumni. … Perhaps because of our golden reunion, members of our class reacted strongly — if differently — out of love for the college. Some of us decided that we needed to do something in support of a stronger and more diverse college.”

According to Davis, who experienced major social and political upheaval along with his classmates in the late 1960s, the purpose is to benefit the college and this generation of Wofford students.

“The 1968 Kerner Commission Report, published our senior year at Wofford, identified the factors leading to the riots in various cities around the country after the death of Martin Luther King Jr.,” continues Davis. “The pledges and urgency after Dr. King’s death, and now George Floyd’s death, fade until another comes along. The Wofford Way Unity Fund will seek to implant programs and other opportunities for people who are different
to get to know one other — through work, faith-based activities, recreation and academic experiences. From this foundation of personal relationships, particularly in a college setting where good works begin and endure, Wofford can make its mark in this critical endeavor.”

The Class of 1969 Wofford Way Unity Fund creators believe everyone benefits from these experiences.

“This is a group that has asked, ‘How can we help?’” says Samhat. “The Board of Trustees has adopted the Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion task force recommendations, and college leaders continue to review policies and improve practices. This fund is the next step in ensuring that Wofford College students have the resources they need to be successful as students and graduates.”

“The success of the fund depends largely on support from all alumni, parents and friends of the college,” says Calhoun Kennedy ’89, interim vice president for advancement. “This is an opportunity for all who love Wofford College to do something that will forever allow all of us to reap the benefits of this special community.”

To GIVE, visit wofford.edu/wwunityfund or call 864-597-4200.