GOLDEN REUNION

Members of the Class of 1972 celebrated their 50th reunion during Commencement Weekend, May 20-22. Classmates Bob Allen, Bruce Nims, Thomas Lytle and Billy Byars, along with Allen's wife, Linda Perry Allen, were a colorful group at the reunion dinner.
I could not be prouder of the Class of 2022! They graduated on May 22, surrounded by family, friends and the Wofford community, and I know they are ready for their next steps. Many took advantage of opportunities to study abroad, conduct research, intern or participate in community-based learning. They applied the lessons they learned in the classroom through experiential learning, and they used student government, fraternity or sorority involvement, athletics participation, theatre performance and ROTC to practice leadership, collaboration and service. Our world will be a better place because of their engagement.

We also feature three women — Alea Harris ’22, Dieran McGowan ’22 and Destiny Shippy ’22 — who decided that they would not wait to graduate to work toward improvement of our college and world. Read more about their impact and the walking tour that shares Wofford’s common history.

In addition to featuring some of our newest graduates, this issue of Wofford Today also highlights those honored during Commencement, including our Commencement speaker, David Beacham ’77, who retires this summer after 45 years of service to our college. Other faculty retirees include Dr. Charlie Bass (chemistry), Andrew Green (accounting, business and finance) and Dr. David Sykes (computer science). All have made an indelible impact on Wofford College.

Please join me in congratulating our graduates; the Class of 1972, which celebrated its 50th reunion during Commencement Weekend; and our retirees. We appreciate their contributions to our college!

Go Terriers!

Nayef H. Samhat
11TH PRESIDENT OF WOFFORD COLLEGE

During the spring, President Nayef Samhat named Paola Cruz ’23 Presidential International Scholar for the 2022-23 academic year. The sociology and anthropology and Spanish double major from Charlotte, N.C., will conduct research in Argentina and Honduras.
Where thought leads.
During the grand reopening of the Burwell Building in February, we asked students to share their thoughts on the long blank wall in the dining space on the second floor. They asked for color. They wanted the space to feel inspired and energetic. They overwhelmingly asked for Terriers. Karyn Davis, Wofford’s creative director, and Blank Canvas Mural Co. then took their ideas and created a dynamic mural that anchors other smaller murals throughout the space. Finally, the Wofford community, including President Samhat, volunteered to help paint.
DORROLL NAMED ACE FELLOW

The American Council on Education (ACE) named Dr. Courtney Dorroll an ACE Fellow for the 2022-23 academic year. The program identifies and prepares faculty and staff for senior positions in college and university administration. Dorroll, associate professor of religion, is one of 46 fellows selected for ACE’s 2022-23 cohort.

Read more online.

‘KNOT JUST HAIR’

An evening watching comedian Chris Rock’s 2009 documentary “Good Hair” led Dieran McGowan ’22 and Fadzai Mushayamunda ’22 to develop independent research focused on the ways hair has shaped the social and historical experiences of Black women. Their project is titled “Knot Just Hair: Celebrating and exploring Black hair in a society where it is frequently misunderstood.”

Read more online.

FINDING SOLUTIONS

Dr. Rachel Grotheer and Chase Creamer ’23 represented Wofford at the world’s largest annual meeting of mathematicians in April. Grotheer, assistant professor of mathematics, co-organized two special paper sessions at the meetings. Creamer, a mathematics major from Davidson, N.C., presented research he conducted with Grotheer that modeled humanity’s chance at survival following a catastrophic event.

Read more online.

COMMITMENT TO FIRST-GEN STUDENTS

Wofford has been named to the Center for First-generation Student Success’ First-gen Forward cohort for the 2022-23 academic year. The designation recognizes institutions that have demonstrated a commitment to improving experiences and advancing outcomes of first-generation college students. The center is an initiative of NASPA—Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education and the Suder Foundation.

Read more online.
RESEARCHING PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES
Mia Kilpatrick ’22 spent Interim on a 6,000-mile road trip to 10 U.S. presidential libraries. Her research took her from Atlanta to Boston to West Branch, Iowa. “My research centered around the question of whether presidential libraries reflect the legacy of the presidents,” says Kilpatrick, an international affairs and Spanish double major from Hartsville, S.C.
Read more online.

PAINTING HER MARK
For Kate Timbes ’23, studying in another country was not the only exciting part of her experience in Copenhagen, Denmark. The studio art major from Columbia, S.C., was given the opportunity to become a part of the media team for the Danish Institute for Study Abroad (DIS) and a chance to paint a mural on the wall of its student hub.
Read more online.

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SEEING THE BIG PICTURE
Many students concentrating on pre-medicine at Wofford College have plans for working on the clinical side of healthcare. John Harrington ’23 is exploring the administrative side as well. Harrington, a biology major from Houston, Texas, spent Interim studying at Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System. He split time between the health system’s Spartanburg Medical Center and Pelham Medical Center campuses.
Read more online.
Students in Dr. Karen Goodchild’s classical art history seminar and in Dr. Mark Ferguson’s ancient drama class held a symposium on Greek theater that focused on both art and performance. Students who participated learned how visual art reflects and shapes the dramatic work and experienced Greek food and an abbreviated version of Antigone.
This spring, Alea Harris ’22, Dieran McGowan ’22 and Destiny Shippy ’22 reviewed their scripts, recorded voice-overs and posed for photos. By the first of July, a new public walking tour of Wofford College will be available, and it’s rooted in their research, persistence and commitment to sharing Wofford’s history.

“This is us trying to leave Wofford better than we found it,” says Shippy.

The research for the project started two and a half years ago during a research methods Interim with Dr. Rhiannon Leebrick and a Council of Independent Colleges grant to study Wofford’s past and how it connects to the Spartanburg community. That grant was a collaboration between Rebecca Raulerson Parrish ’99, grants specialist at the time; Jessalyn Story, director of the Center for Community-Based Learning; Luke Meagher, special collections librarian; and Brad Steinecke, assistant director of local history with the Spartanburg County Public Libraries.

In the research methods Interim with Harris and McGowan were Kaycia Best ’20, Bryson Coleman ’23 and Vera Oberg ’20. Harris and Best were paid through the grant to continue the work during the spring. The goal was to present their findings to the CIC and at the Spartanburg County Public Libraries, but COVID-19 altered plans. Unable to deliver a culminating presentation, the group continued to pore through archival materials and secondary sources. Shippy and McGowan joined the research group during the summer, and the researchers met weekly with Dr. Tasha Smith-Tyus, who helped them think through how the...
research could be used. Harris, McGowan and Shippy then helped Leebrick turn their research into a publication, and they presented the findings via Zoom during the fall of 2020. Eyon Brown ‘21 and Noah Ravan ‘23 began editing the research document in the spring of 2021 to create a user-friendly tour of the campus that includes the college’s common history.

“This project was always meant to be the beginning of a conversation about public memory and a way for undergraduate students to get hands-on research experience,” says Leebrick, an assistant professor of sociology and anthropology.

For the three women who have seen the project from its infancy to completion and for Best, who was an early leader, the project has been much more.

“We were evaluating ourselves and where we learn and grow and how this affects us,” says Shippy.

“We were connecting the dots,” says Harris, who spent time investigating leads in archives across the Upstate as well as at Wofford. “Every name was important to filling out a complete story and coming to terms with what had happened and what was happening.”

They discovered the complexities of archival research and the importance of documentation as they read the papers of each of Wofford’s past presidents. The Interim group had traveled to Montgomery, Ala., and met Freedom Riders; they sparked conversations about how history is shared in a variety of ways. The student researchers talked with some of Wofford’s first Black students and benchmarked the work other colleges and universities are doing to share their histories.

Best interviewed Doug Jones ’69, Wofford’s first African-American graduate. After Dr. Phillip Stone ’94, college archivist, shared letters that the college received during integration, she had questions, and Jones provided answers.

“The most interesting part of archival research for me is the chase,” says Best, who is now a flagship manager with Enterprise in Rockingham, N.C. “You find one little piece of information, and you follow the leads until you discover the complete story. It can be tedious, but it’s worth it.”

Spending time in the archives with boxes and boxes of materials, some of which were full of fragile scraps of paper, gave McGowan a sense of urgency. “I realized that vital documents could get lost so easily... or overlooked... or forgotten,” says McGowan. She was particularly concerned that Wofford students know the story of Wofford’s integration told in President Charles Marsh’s papers.

“There were nuances in the Marsh papers about integration that could easily be missed, and we didn’t want that to happen.”

“The student researchers were phenomenal in the passion and professionalism they brought to their work,” says Leebrick. “What an amazing group of young scholars.”

Dr. Dwain Pruitt ’95, chief equity officer, and Stone also supported the students by reviewing the finished project.

“This is great,” says Best, referring to the new tour. “The goal was always to make Wofford’s history more available to students.”

**History Walking Tour: A Sneak Peek**

Start the tour at Wofford.edu/historytour. The tour is designed as a walking tour accessed from a smartphone and is also available to view virtually.

Following is a summary of the stops on the tour, along with a few Wofford facts to whet your appetite.
History Walking Tour: A Sneak Peek

**START: Hugh S. Black Building and Franklin W. Olin Building**

Pick up a brochure on the porch of the Hugh S. Black Building. Scan the QR code or log onto the site and listen to Harris, McGowan and Shippie share information about Alumni Hall, constructed in 1888 and funded by alumni donations. Then discover how the college regrouped and developed an improvement plan after being turned down by the F.W. Olin Foundation.

*Quote from the tour:* “The foundation changed its mind after the college’s 1988 strategic plan and vision process. The building was designed to enhance faculty-student mentoring by inserting state-of-the-art technology into the relationship. The connections between faculty and students remain a hallmark of the Wofford experience.”

**STOP 1: The Fountain and Burwell Building**

Learn about what the campus was like before it became a college. This section discusses the Milliken Arboretum and Burwell Building, which was the site of the first Wofford Theatre production and includes rooms named for Al Gray ’71 and Doug Jones ’69, the college’s first African-American student and first African-American graduate, respectively, as well as Anna Todd Wofford, Benjamin Wofford’s first wife.

*Quote from the tour:* “When Wofford was founded, the college was situated on the city of Spartanburg's northern border. Now Wofford, which is a short walk from the restaurants, hotels and shops in downtown Spartanburg, is surrounded by other colleges and universities, Spartanburg Regional Medical Center and our neighbors in the Northside community.”

**STOP 2: The Kilgo-Clinkscales House, the President’s home, DuPré Administration**

Wofford’s campus was home to six buildings when it opened in 1854: Main Building, a home for the president of the college and four houses for faculty. All but one still exist and have been repurposed over time. This section also discusses the curriculum and the impact President Nayef Samhat has had on the college since he became president in 2013.

*Quote from the tour:* “The curriculum of the late 1800s emphasized the classical tradition and the instillation of moral values. Students read the works of Caesar and Cicero in Latin, studied the Bible in Greek and Hebrew, and took classes in chemistry, moral and natural philosophy, geology and political economy. Wofford students were expected to avoid profanity and drunkenness. Students were required to attend chapel.”

**STOP 3: Wofford grave markers, Roger Milliken Science Center, Chandler Center for Environmental Studies and the Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts**

In the heart of the academic commons, discover how Wofford was founded and learn about Benjamin Wofford, Anna Todd Wofford and Maria Barron Wofford. This section of the tour discusses the college’s founding, United Methodist roots and the impact of influential trustees and donors such as Roger Milliken, Delores and Harold Chandler ’71, and Jerry ’59 and Rosalind Sallenger Richardson.

*Quote from the tour:* “Like the United Methodist Church of this era, Wofford’s early history also is intertwined with the institution of slavery. The college’s founder, members of its original faculty and its first three presidents all enslaved African Americans. As you will learn later on this tour, these enslaved persons played important roles in the college’s construction and operations and in the city of Spartanburg.”

**STOP 4: Main Building**

Main Building, Wofford’s first building, remains central to the college experience. All students attend classes in the building. Inside Main is a memorial to those who died in military service as well as a section of exposed brick and an excerpt from Nikky Finney's poem “The Thinking Men.” The building also includes a tribute to retired faculty.

*Quote from the tour:* “Inside Main is the college bell, purchased in 1854 from the Meneely Bell Company in West Troy, New York. It weighs about 700 pounds and is 33 inches in diameter. It rings the hour on campus and tolls three times for each student: once when joining the community as a first-year student, again at graduation four years later, and finally on All Saints Day after their death.”

**STOP 5: Daniel Building and the Sandor Teszler Library**

Learn about the history of the library at Wofford. The college’s first library was in Main Building, The Whitefoord Smith Library, now the Daniel Building, was the college’s first free-standing library.

*Quote from the tour:* “Teszler was a Hungarian immigrant and Holocaust survivor who fled to the U.S. in 1948. He was the founder of Olympia Mills, and in retirement he was a favorite on campus, taking classes and talking with students. He audited more than 50 classes at Wofford in the 1970s and 1980s and helped begin Wofford’s permanent art collection with notable Hungarian paintings.”
STOP 6: Greene, Carlisle and Marsh halls; Carlisle-Wallace House; Jerome Johnson Richardson Hall, Hugh R. Black Wellness Center, Snyder House

Housing for first-year students is clustered at this end of campus, with Greene, Marsh and Carlisle halls all named for Wofford presidents. Learn about those presidents and their impact on the campus as well as about Andrews Field House, which stood where Jerome Johnson Richardson Hall now houses 150 first-year students.

Quote from the tour: “Greene Hall is named for Dr. Walter K. Greene, class of 1903, the only Wofford graduate to become president of the college. Greene served Wofford as president from 1942 to 1951. He guided the college through World War II, and at one point served as president of both Wofford and Columbia College. This followed a proposal by the South Carolina Methodist Conference to merge Wofford, Lander College and Columbia College into a denominational university that would serve men and women. (Obviously that didn’t happen.)”

STOP 7: Russell C. King Field and Switzer Stadium, Snyder Field

Discover the origins of baseball and intercollegiate athletics on Wofford’s campus. Learn about generous gifts from the Kings and Switzers that brought baseball back to campus.

Quote from the tour: “The Terriers made headlines in 1913 when Ty Cobb played on campus. Wofford lost 9-8 to the professional team, but the headlines were more about a student brawl with Cobb, who was infamous for his temper, than about the outcome of the game.”

STOP 8: Evins Street near gate to the Verandah Lot, DuPré Hall, Mungo Student Center, Richardson Physical Activities Building, Joe E. Taylor Center

This section of the tour is packed with information about the start of student publications at Wofford and the early literary societies. Generous trustees and donors, such as Steven Mungo ’81 and Joe Taylor ’80, are mentioned in this section, as are President Paul Hardin and Dean A. Mason DuPré.

Quote from the tour: “While women had occasionally attended Wofford, Hardin’s administration saw the first steps toward coeducation. In 1971, the college began admitting women as day students. Full residential coeducation began in 1976.”

STOP 9: Gibbs Stadium

Gibbs Stadium, the home of Wofford football thanks to a lead gift from Marsha and Jimmy Gibbs, now has a monument in Eli Sanders Plaza to commemorate the first football game in South Carolina as well as great moments in Wofford football history.

Quote from the tour: “In December 1889, Wofford challenged baseball rival Furman to a football match at Spartanburg’s encampment grounds, which were located west of the campus on Howard Street in the Northside. It was the first intercollegiate gridiron contest ever staged in South Carolina. Wofford won the original contest 5-1 and the rematch a month later 2-1.”

STOP 10: Back of the College monument

Many African Americans who have played significant roles in the area’s history lived near the college in the neighborhood known as Back of the College. Tobe Hartwell Jr., who came to Wofford in 1859 as Wofford President Albert M. Shipp’s bondsman, was one of the neighborhood’s earliest residents. Years later, Russell Miller, who was a groundskeeper at Wofford in the 1940s, was a resident. His grandson, Dr. Douglas Wood ’90, was the college’s 2018 Commencement speaker. Wood said his grandfather was his first teacher of Wofford history.

Quote from the tour: “One of the final homeowners in the Back of the College neighborhood was Hattie Belle Penland, a longtime teacher at Cumming Street School and a mentor to countless children. She grew up in a home close to where the Gibbs Stadium scoreboard is now located and was a tough negotiator when she was ready to sell her property. Penland spent much of her childhood in the home of Professor and Mrs. J.A. Gamewell, where her mother was a cook. That home is now the Hugh R. Black Wellness Center.”

STOP 11: Cumming Street School, Jerry Richardson Indoor Stadium

The Cumming Street School was built in 1926 as the first modern high school for Black students in Spartanburg County. It’s currently used for storage and as the headquarters of the college’s Facilities Department. The school sits across from the Jerry Richardson Indoor Stadium, the home of Wofford basketball, volleyball and lacrosse.

Quote from the tour: “In 2021, Jerry Richardson made a $150 million gift to the college’s endowment. Portions of the money are being used to support building maintenance and to raise the minimum compensation pool on campus to $15 per hour. The majority of the funds are used to support need-based scholarships and opportunities for experiential learning.”
STOP 12: Stewart H. Johnson Greek Village, Shipp Hall, Reeves Tennis Center and the Senior Village Apartments

Discover how fraternities — and later sororities — became a part of the campus culture. President Francis Pendleton Gaines was president when the college built the original fraternity row. This stop on the tour also touches on the legacies of President Albert M. Shipp and President Bernie Dunlap.

Quote from the tour: “Shipp resisted letting Wofford students join the Confederate war effort because he believed that the South would need educated men after the war. The college did, however, support the Confederate effort by investing over $85,000 into war bonds, all of which became worthless when the South lost the war.”

STOP 13: Michael S. Brown Village Center and Lesesne and Wightman halls

Juniors and seniors live in this area of campus, conveniently located near the Mungo Exchange. The Mungo Exchange houses the Career Center, International Programs, Community-Based Learning and Undergraduate Research and Post-graduate Fellowships. Wightman Hall is named for Wofford’s first president. Lesesne Hall is named for Wofford’s ninth president, Dr. Joab M. Lesesne Jr.

Quote from the tour: “The college went through a major growth phase — both in enrollment and facilities — during Lesesne’s tenure. The college also moved from NAIA and NCAA Division II to Division I and entrance into the Southern Conference. He coached football for the Terriers and taught classes after retirement.”

STOP 14: Walkway between Papadopoulos Building and Montgomery Music Building

The Neofytos D. Papadopoulos Building, constructed in 1987, is dedicated to the memory of the father of Dr. C.N. Papadopoulos ’54, the college’s first graduate to give $1 million to the college. The building houses the Alumni Office, and the Papadopoulos Room is one of the first spaces prospective students see when visiting Wofford. In 2012, the college dedicated the Montgomery Music Building, made possible by a gift from Betty and Rose Montgomery.

Quote from the tour: “Wofford’s network of alumni support has been nationally recognized for decades, with particularly strong programs in health careers, law, research, entertainment, journalism and business.”
Dieran McGowan
Hometown: Greenville, S.C.
Finance major
McGowan finished her coursework after Interim 2022.
McGowan served on the Judicial Commission, Orientation Staff and the COVID-19 Student Response Team. She worked as a writer for the Old Gold and Black student newspaper and as a resident assistant and for the Wellness Center. She was on the leadership committee of the Launch program through the Wofford Career Center.

Destiny Shippy
Hometown: Spartanburg, S.C.
Sociology and anthropology major
Shippy begins North Carolina Central School of Law in July.
At Wofford, Shippy was elected to Campus Union and chaired the Wofford Athletics and Recreation committee. She was a member of the track and field team and is the founding president of the Wofford Anti-Racism Coalition. She was a resident assistant and past president of Wofford Women of Color. During the summer of 2021, Shippy studied at the University of Ghana as a Frederick Douglass Scholar.

Alea Harris
Hometown: Cincinnati, Ohio
English and sociology and anthropology double major
Harris has a full scholarship to attend law school at The Ohio State University. She begins in the fall.
Harris was a member of the women’s basketball team. She was on the Student Athlete Advisory Committee and was involved in Wofford Women of Color, where she is a past treasurer. A member of the Black Student Alliance, Harris was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa this spring.
Faces of the Class of 2022

THEIR WOFFORD EXPERIENCE AND WHAT’S NEXT

Meet some of the students in the Class of 2022 who used their Wofford experience to prepare for jobs, internships, graduate school or military service. Their communities will be better places to live and work because of the impact they will make as Wofford graduates.

By Jo Ann Mitchell Brasington ’89 and Mark Olencki ’75

Emily Beckman

- Sociology and anthropology major; business minor
- Hometown: Apex, N.C.
- Wofford experiences: Women’s lacrosse; Student Athlete Advisory Committee; Marketing and Communications design intern
- What’s next? Communications internship, Mercedes-Benz, Charleston, S.C.

Mary Fields Chewning

- German and mathematics double major
- Hometown: Spartanburg, S.C.
- Wofford experiences: Delta Delta Delta sorority; Admission ambassador; German Club (vice president); German School of the Upstate (teaching assistant)
- What’s next? Fulbright English teaching assistant, Brandenburg, Germany

Quashon Greenlee

- Business economics major
- Hometown: Anderson, S.C.
- Wofford experiences: Offensive line, Wofford football; worked at Zach’s as a cook and dishwasher; internship with Enterprise Rent-A-Car
- What’s next? Management trainee program, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Anderson
Andrew White

Physics major; mathematics minor
Hometown: Clover, S.C.
Wofford experiences: Richardson Scholar; Kappa Sigma fraternity; faculty-student research; physics teaching assistant; College Republicans; Phi Beta Kappa
What’s next? Ph.D. in medical physics, University of Wisconsin

Shaina Patel

Accounting and finance double major
Hometown: Charlotte, N.C.
Wofford experiences: Admission ambassador; Zeta Tau Alpha sorority; Wofford Activities Council; Wofford Athletics and Recreation; Orientation staff
What’s next? Commercial lending associate, SouthState Bank, Charlotte, N.C., and Rock Hill, S.C., branches; studying for real estate license

Lilie Steryous

Environmental studies major
Hometown: Taylors, S.C.
Wofford experiences: Women’s tennis; student worker, BenJo Fitness Center; Orientation staff; Student Athlete Advisory Committee; Wofford’s Bee Club; Wofford College Republicans
What’s next? Intern, Disney College Program, Walt Disney World, Orlando, Fla.

Andrew Merrills Jr.

Accounting and finance double major
Hometown: Cary, N.C.
Wofford experiences: Student-managed James-Atkins Investment Fund; tennis team manager; mountain biking Interim (his favorite!)
What’s next: Work as an investment banking analyst, Sherman & Co., Charlotte, N.C.
Jenna Finchum

Chemistry major; teacher education program

Hometown: Fountain Inn, S.C.

Wofford experiences: Kappa Alpha Theta sorority; chemistry teaching assistant; Honor Council; Admission ambassador; Career Center researcher

What’s next? M.A.T. program, Converse University; student teacher, Ralph Chandler Middle School, Greenville, S.C.

Michaela Grant

Psychology major

Hometown: Blythewood, S.C.

Wofford experiences: Writing Center tutor; Psychology Kingdom

What’s next? Counseling education program, clinical mental health track, University of South Carolina

Ethan DiBlasio

Chemistry major; computer science minor

Hometown: Spartanburg, S.C.

Wofford experiences: Three summers of research; chemistry teaching assistant and tutor; Alpha Phi Omega (president); fly fishing club (president); men’s club tennis; Phi Beta Kappa

What’s next? Medical scribe; applying to medical school

Taylor Thornton

Biology major; English minor

Hometown: Greenville, S.C.

Wofford experiences: First-generation college student; Zeta Tau Alpha sorority; resident assistant; Orientation staff; phenology and climate change research that led to the implementation of a Phenology Walk at Glendale Shoals; Interim study abroad (food, art and history in Italy).

What’s next? M.S. in environmental science, environmental microbiology track, University of Arizona
Physics and theatre double major; pre-med program
Hometown: Clinton, S.C.
Wofford experiences: Alpha Psi Omega theatre fraternity (president); Society of Physics Students; Phi Beta Kappa
What’s next? Venue carpenter, Spoleto, Charleston, S.C. (summer); lighting/set designer, South Carolina Children’s Theatre; community theatre volunteer

Biology major; neuroscience concentration
Hometown: Spartanburg, S.C.
Wofford experiences: Beta Beta Beta biology honor society; Amnesty International (president); Gateway Scholar; iCAN mentor; Bonner Scholar; Phi Beta Kappa
What’s next? Research assistantship, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Biology, philosophy and Spanish triple major; concentration in medicine and the liberal arts
Hometown: Saluda, S.C.
Wofford experiences: Wofford Presidential International Scholar; first-generation college student; summer research; Organization of Latin American Students; Wofford Asian American Pacific Islanders; Wofford Anti-Racism Coalition; Pi Kappa Phi fraternity
What’s next? Master of science in precision health, University of Chicago

Computer science and mathematics double major; philosophy minor
Hometown: Clover, S.C.
Wofford experiences: Bonner Scholar; first-generation college student; Kappa Alpha Theta sorority; research; ICAN mentor; Goldtones; United Way of the Piedmont’s Financial Opportunity Center volunteer; Interim abroad (United Arab Emirates); internship with Horizon Investments; Phi Mu Epsilon mathematics fraternity; Phi Beta Kappa
What’s next? Investment analyst, Charlotte, N.C.
Chris Hatchell

Biology and chemistry double major; physics minor

Hometown: Hanahan, S.C.

Wofford experiences: Pi Kappa Phi fraternity; undergraduate research ambassador; summer collaborative research

What's next? Doctoral program in chemistry, Clemson University

Olivia Free

Sociology and anthropology and Spanish double major; medicine and the liberal arts concentration

Hometown: Moncks Corner, S.C.

Wofford experiences: Study abroad (Quito, Ecuador); JEDI student researcher; public health research; Bonner Scholar (leadership team); Volunteer: Adult Learning Center, FoodShare Spartanburg, World Relief; Wellness Center student worker; International Programs blogger; Phi Beta Kappa

What's next? Master of public health in behavioral, social and health education sciences, Emory University

Alicia Jones

Accounting and Spanish double major

Hometown: Lancaster, S.C.

Wofford experiences: Campus Union (treasurer); Wofford Women of Color; Orientation staff; Admission ambassador; accounting peer tutor and lab assistant; VITA tax volunteer; Arcadia Elementary volunteer; Wofford Anti-Racism Coalition (treasurer); Wofford Gospel Choir; Senior Order of Gnomes; Sigma Delta Pi Spanish honor society

What's next? Audit intern, Deloitte, Raleigh, N.C.
Jay Stevens

Accounting, finance and Spanish triple major

Hometown: Spartanburg, S.C.

Wofford experiences: JEDI student researcher; summer research; E.K. Hardin Pre-Law Society (president); James-Atkins Fund (portfolio manager); Orientation staff; Old Gold and Black (staff writer); accounting lab tutor and peer tutor; Sigma Delta Pi Spanish honor society; Meeting Street Academy mentor; Senior Order of Gnomes; Phi Beta Kappa

What's next? Audit associate, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Charlotte, N.C.

Hannah Putlock

Biology major; Middle East North African studies concentration

Hometown: Charleston, S.C.

Wofford experiences: Wofford Activities Council; Ducks Unlimited

What's next? Medical School, University of South Carolina School of Medicine, Greenville

Cameron Walker

Mathematics and physics double major

Hometown: Irmo, S.C.

Wofford experiences: Delta Delta Delta sorority (vice president of operations)

What's next? Civil designer, ADC Engineering, Greenville, S.C.; applying to graduate school in civil engineering

Rowan Burns

Environmental studies and sociology and anthropology double major

Hometown: Irmo, S.C.

Wofford experiences: Wofford's sustainability master planning committee; Old Gold and Black (managing editor); Sustainability Club (president); Cleveland Academy of Leadership volunteer (Chefs Club leader); Hub City Farmers Market Urban Farm (student farmer); study abroad (Copenhagen, Denmark); Phi Beta Kappa

What's next? Sustainability and conservation nonprofit work, Spartanburg

Sarah Peak

Mathematics and physics double major; computer science minor

Hometown: Columbia, S.C.

Wofford experiences: Society for Physics Students; outdoor club; WoCo Pep Band

What's next? Doctoral program in physics, University of South Carolina
Eliana Davis
Sociology and anthropology and Spanish double major
Hometown: Charlotte, N.C.
Wofford experiences: Study abroad (Spain); Admission ambassador; Orientation staff; Volunteer: Mary H. Wright Elementary School and ARCH program
What’s next? Interviewing for jobs in Greece

Ally McDonough
Religion major; Middle East and North African studies concentration
Hometown: Charleston, S.C.
Wofford experiences: Wofford Singers; Goldtones; Women’s Choir; Delta Delta Delta sorority; work in the Halligan Center for Religious and Spiritual Life; research presented at Wofford’s Annual Conference on Gender
What’s next? Work as an assistant manager at Buckle Inc. in Charleston, S.C.; applying for graduate school in archival management and public history

Ike Ducas
Finance major
Hometown: Nicholasville, Ky.
Wofford experiences: ROTC; Sigma Alpha Epsilon (vice president); Ducks Unlimited (president)
What’s next? Second lieutenant, U.S. Army; Transportation Basic Officer Leadership Course, Fort Lee, Va. (14 weeks); 526 Brigade Support Battalion, active duty, Fort Campbell, Ky.

Harrison Chase
Biology major; business minor; pre-med program
Hometown: Charlotte, N.C.
Wofford experiences: Resident assistant; Admission ambassador; SpartanDogs obstacle course racing team (founder, president); Wofford Singers; Glee Club; Wofford Men a cappella group; Concert Band (trumpet); Phi Beta Kappa
What’s next? Medical School, Wake Forest School of Medicine
Scott Wilson

- Biology major; accounting minor; pre-dental program
- Hometown: Hampton, S.C.
- Wofford experiences: ROTC (Ranger Challenge team); Sigma Nu fraternity; club soccer
- What's next? Dental school, James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine, Charleston, S.C.

Rachel Kearse

- Psychology and theatre double major
- Hometown: Columbia, S.C.
- Wofford experiences: Delta Delta Delta sorority; Mu Beta Psi music fraternity (reestablished chapter, vice president); Alpha Psi Omega theatre fraternity
- What's next? Production assistant, teacher and intern supervisor, Columbia Children’s Theatre’s production of Matilda (summer); Wardrobe intern, Gulfshore Playhouse, Naples, Fla.

A.J. Miller

- Government and psychology double major
- Hometown: Rock Hill, S.C.
- Wofford experiences: Orientation staff; E.K. Hardin Pre-Law Society; psychology teaching assistant; legal assistant, Schultz Law Firm
- What's next: Law school, The Ohio State University

Fadzai Mushayamunda

- Humanities major; religion minor; pre-med concentration
- Hometown: Winston-Salem, N.C.
- Wofford experiences: Judicial Commission; Campus Union; Writing Center tutor; Old Gold & Black (staff writer); Bonner Scholar
- What's next? Page, NBC, New York, N.Y.
A familiar face to a few generations of Terriers delivered the address during Wofford’s 168th Commencement. David Beacham ’77 shared insight with the 357 graduates in the Class of 2022 as they embarked on a new chapter in life. His words were designed to prepare them to participate in Commencement exercises in 2072, as the Class of 1972 was while celebrating its 50th reunion during the weekend.

“It has become a tradition at Wofford College to ask a successful graduate to return as our Commencement speaker. What better way to inspire us all than to show the product of the transformational liberal arts education experience that is distinctive to Wofford?” said President Nayef Samhat during Commencement.

Beacham, the college’s senior vice president of administration and secretary to the board of trustees, is retiring this summer after 45 years of service to the college. (Read more about Beacham and other retirees on pages 28-33 and read his Commencement address at Wofford.edu/commencement.)

May’s Commencement exercises returned to the lawn of Main Building for the first time since 2019. Baccalaureate services were held in the Jerry Richardson Indoor Stadium because of the threat of inclement weather. The weekend also included Honors Convocation, ROTC Commissioning, a Senior Showcase of research and a presentation from Presidential International Scholar Hector Ortiz ’22, Phi Beta Kappa induction, class of 2022 parties and a special luncheon celebrating this class of first-generation college students.

Also recognized during the weekend was Roberta Hurley ’81, who will transition this summer from vice president for campus life and student development and dean of students — a role she’s had for 26 years — to senior vice president for administration and secretary to the board.

“We are fortunate at Wofford College to have so many faculty and staff who care so deeply for students,” said Samhat during Commencement exercises. “I often say that student success is a line in all of our job descriptions, and Roberta Hurley and David Beacham each have lived that.”

by Dudley Brown

COMMENCEMENT

2022

CELEBRATING GRADUATES AND SPECIAL HONOREES
Honorary degree recipients
The college awarded 374 Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts degrees to 357 graduates during Commencement. Wofford also conferred honorary degrees on three individuals:

1. Dr. Michael A. Dirr, professor emeritus of horticulture at the University of Georgia, who advised Wofford on horticulture with a special emphasis on the planting of trees.

2. Alexandra Nunez, president and CEO of Esperanza International, a microfinance institution in the Dominican Republic that partners with Wofford’s student-managed James-Atkins Investment Fund to provide microloans in the Dominican Republic.

3. Dr. Leo Franklin Twiggs, distinguished artist-in-residence at Claflin University and professor emeritus at South Carolina State University, who curated an exhibition of artwork from Historically Black Colleges and Universities that was displayed on Wofford’s campus in the fall of 2021.

Sullivan Award winners
The college presented the prestigious Mary Mildred Sullivan Award to Jana Marie Faircloth, an accounting major from Sumter, S.C.

The non-student recipient was Beverly Page, a master gardener who has led efforts to help Spartanburg nonprofits receive thousands of pounds of fresh vegetables during the summers. Harold Page was the non-student recipient of the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award for his humanitarian work as a master gardener with his wife.

The student recipient of the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award was Dylan Goshorn, an international affairs and philosophy major from Harleyville, S.C.

Teaching awards
Special teaching awards were presented to Diane Farley, associate professor of accounting (pictured), who received the Philip Covington Award for Excellence in the Teaching of the Humanities and Social Sciences, and Dr. Joseph Spivey, associate professor and chair of the Department of Mathematics, who received the Roger Milliken Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Science.

Honor graduates
The Honor Graduate (or in this case graduates) at Wofford must be intelligent, disciplined and committed to working hard each and every day. Such is the nature of the academic enterprise at a Phi Beta Kappa liberal arts college. This year’s Honor Graduates were Slaton Schneider and Alexis Tomlin. Both earned a 4.0 grade point average.
Walking into the world: After Commencement, graduates walk together through the gates of the college. These Terriers are prepared for what’s next.

The family of Isaiah Bigelow ’22 came to Commencement ready to celebrate four years of hard work. Bigelow was a member of the men’s basketball team.

Dr. A.K. Anderson ’90 announced the Senior Order of Gnomes during Honors Convocation (from left): Al Hogan, Jay Stevens, Hanes Grafe and Alicia Jones.

First-generation college student Brianna Basinger ’22 and her proud parents at a luncheon held to celebrate the success of Wofford’s first-gen graduates. Basinger will begin law school at the University of South Carolina in the fall.

Faculty form a gauntlet and prepare to congratulate Wofford’s newest graduates.

On the Friday before Commencement, 38 Wofford students and recent graduates were inducted into Phi Beta Kappa.

Ole Berg ’22 participated in the tradition of rubbing the Class of 1956 Terrier bronze outside of the Mungo Student Center on the way to Commencement exercises.

During the college’s Southern Guards Spring Commissioning Ceremony, Chandler Huskey was recognized as a distinguished military graduate. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant assigned to the adjutant general corps of the South Carolina Army National Guard in Charleston.

Strahley Benson ’22 presented her research on residential investment real estate during the Senior Showcase event held on the Saturday before Commencement.

This year’s Baccalaureate Service was held in the Jerry Richardson Indoor Stadium. The Rev. Dr. Ron Robinson ’78, Perkins-Prothro Chaplain and Professor of Religion, led the service.

Students, families and friends gather during the senior party the night before Commencement.
A Job Well Done

WOFFORD HONORS RETIREES

By Robert W. Dalton

The faculty and staff who retire this year have devoted more than 271 years of service to the college. They touched every area of the campus and worked each day to make the student experience exceptional. They have been honored for jobs well done, and each still holds a special place in the Wofford community.

STAFF RETIREES DURING THE 2021-22 ACADEMIC YEAR:

SHIRLEY ALEXANDER
27.9 years
Housekeeping

JOHN BLAIR
35 years
Director of conference services, former men’s soccer coach

DONALD GREEN
19 years
Housekeeper

RANDY HALL ’83
15 years
Director of Campus Safety

CATHY KOZLOWSKI
21 years
Campus Safety officer

KIM LYTLE-BROWN
23 years
Administrative assistant, Office of Admission

DARRYL MAYBIN
16 years
Facilities utility crew
Dr. Charlie Bass was doing postdoctoral research at the Cancer Research Institute at Arizona State University when he made an important discovery. He realized he’d rather be teaching.

“I fought it a little,” says Bass, the Dr. and Mrs. Larry H. McCalla Professor of Chemistry. “Postdoc is kind of a halfway house for a chemist. I wasn’t as fond of that. I should have known when I was at Tennessee (where he earned his Ph.D.) because I spent more time on the teaching assistantship than research. That should have been a clue, but it takes me a while.”

It turns out that Bass, who retired at the end of the semester after 34 years at Wofford, was good at teaching. So good, in fact, that, in the twilight of his career, a group of former students raised the money to have a new, state-of-the-art lab named in his honor. The lab was dedicated in May.

“I’m shocked that anybody wanted to put my name on it,” says Bass. “It’s going to make a tremendous difference to the department. Doing research requires having a dedicated space. It means the world to me to have it for the students here.”

Bass arrived at Wofford in 1988. His teaching style and sense of humor made him a favorite year after year.

“I was on such a high when I first started teaching here,” Bass says. “There were nights when I couldn’t go to bed because I had to write notes and figure out how to say things in class.”

Bass has been recognized locally and nationally over the course of his career. He received the Roger Milliken Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Science at Wofford in 2006, and he has been honored several times as the Faculty Member of the Year by the Panhellenic Council at Wofford and by Campus Union. He was included in The Princeton Review’s book “The Best 300 Professors” in 2012. In 2013, he was one of 10 faculty recognized nationally with a Kappa Alpha Theta Outstanding Faculty Award.

Bass says he’s looking forward to taking a break. He’s also ready to begin a new chapter.

“The biggest thing is I want to unwind first,” he says. “I tend to work really long hours, so I’m looking forward to slowing down a bit. I don’t want to stop. I’ll do something part-time, hopefully teaching.”
David Beacham '77 wasn’t planning on a career in higher education when he started working in Wofford’s Office of Admission in July 1977.

Law school was a possibility, or a career in the business world. Beacham definitely wasn’t going to be at Wofford more than a couple of years.

But Beacham blinked, and 20 years passed. Then time really began to fly.

Beacham, senior vice president for administration and secretary to the board of trustees, retires this summer after 45 years.

“When you work at a college like Wofford, it becomes a way of life,” says Beacham. “It gets in your blood. I wasn’t dying to retire, I just feel like 45 years is long enough. It was never going to be easy to leave.”

Beacham’s career spanned three Wofford and eight U.S. presidents (10 if you throw in his time as a student). The campus that encompassed about 75 acres when he started now stretches over 180 acres.

Women were just becoming a part of the Wofford community when Beacham arrived at Wofford as a student. Now they outnumber the men. He’s seen the student body grow from about 1,000 students to nearly 1,800, and he’s watched Wofford’s stock climb in national rankings.

By his count, Beacham has seen the construction of 16 new buildings — starting with the Campus Life Building (now the Mungo Student Center) and concluding with the Chandler Environmental Studies Center. He saw Snyder Field replaced by Gibbs Stadium and Benjamin Johnson Arena give way to Jerry Richardson Indoor Stadium as Wofford moved from NAIA to NCAA Division I.

“The opportunities I’ve had to grow in my work and to be a part of the most dramatically transformative four decades possibly in the college’s history have been very rewarding,” says Beacham. “And the time has flown by.”

Between his first job in admission and his current role, Beacham has served in a variety of positions. He was the director of the Wofford Scholars program before moving to the Office of Advancement, where he was the head of annual giving, planned giving and major giving.

From 1986 to 1990, Beacham worked as a special assistant to President Emeritus Joe Lesesne. Lesesne later promoted him to vice president of development, a post he held until 2002. That’s when then-president Bernie Dunlap brought him back to the president’s office.

“Bernie said there was no way I could do what he needed me to do and remain the chief development officer,” says Beacham. “He convinced me to come back to the president’s office, and he created the title of vice president for administration.”
When Nayef Samhat arrived as the college’s 11th president in 2013, Beacham had been promoted to senior vice president. His breadth and depth of knowledge about anything and everything Wofford made him an invaluable asset.

“David Beacham has dedicated nearly half a century to Wofford College,” says Samhat. “The Wofford experience for students, colleagues, alumni and the greater Spartanburg community is better because of his fingerprints. He’s been a trusted advisor to presidents, including me, and a liaison to the board of trustees and the United Methodist Church. His encyclopedic memory has been invaluable. It’s almost unbelievable how he remembers every birth, wedding, name change or new job among the college’s alumni. He lives and breathes Wofford, and we hope he returns often with his sense of humor, contagious laugh and stories of retirement adventures.”

Beacham says all three presidents he worked with were great colleagues, mentors and friends.

“All three have given me a great deal of responsibility and leeway and have trusted that my judgment was sound,” he says.

Beacham had opportunities to leave, and there was a point about halfway through his run where he came close. But the reasons to stay always outweighed the reasons to go.

“Staying where we were turned out to be the right thing,” he says.

Earlier this year, the David M. and Cynthia C. Beacham Endowed Internship Fund was established by John White ’72 to honor the Beachams. The fund will give students with financial need the resources to participate in career-enhancing and life-changing internship opportunities.

Beacham also was recognized at his final board of trustees meeting in early May when he received the Order of the Palmetto, the state’s highest civilian honor, presented by Murrell Smith ’90, speaker of the South Carolina House of Representatives.

The first thing Beacham plans to do in retirement is “hightail it to the beach,” only this time without worrying about having to rush back. He also plans to work on lowering his golf handicap and to get serious about reading.

Although he won’t be part of the day-to-day operations any longer, Beacham has promised his colleagues on the president’s cabinet that he won’t be far away.

“I’m going to do some fun stuff, stuff I haven’t had time to do in the past,” Beacham says, “but I’ll stay connected enough to answer questions when somebody calls.”
When Dr. David Sykes was considering writing a book in 2001, he reached out to Dr. Angela Shiflet, professor emeritus of computer science, for some advice.

Sykes, Wofford’s McCalla Professor of Computer Science, was teaching at Furman University at the time — the third stop in his second career. After a lunch meeting with Shiflet, she announced that she had arranged for Sykes to meet with then-president Bernie Dunlap.

Because of a retirement, Wofford was hiring a computer science professor, and Shiflet wanted to recruit Sykes. It didn’t take long to convince him to make the move. He joined the Wofford faculty in September 2001.

“It was totally unexpected,” says Sykes, who retired at the end of the semester after 21 years at Wofford. “It’s really been a terrific experience.”

Sykes quickly became a fixture in the Wofford community. He enjoyed the campus and the customs. His favorite spot on campus is Leonard Auditorium.

“Being in there brings back lots of memories, including convocations and the Christmas programs we used to bring our kids to,” Sykes says. “I’m a fan of traditions.”

One of those children, Aaron Sykes ’19, majored in computer science at Wofford. Being able to teach his son was one of Sykes’ career highlights. It did, however, cause some confusion.

“We would frequently get each other’s emails,” Sykes says with a laugh.

Before deciding he wanted to teach, Sykes worked as a software engineer for 13 years. His first job after college was with NCR Corp. (previously National Cash Register) in San Diego. After moving to SofTech Inc. a year and a half later, he got to conduct training courses for several clients, including the U.S. Air Force and Bell Laboratories.

But Sykes wanted a change and returned to college. After earning his Ph.D. from Clemson University, he began his teaching career at Middle Tennessee State University. He also taught at Winthrop University before coming to the Upstate.

Sykes says the reality of retirement began to sink in during spring break. For the first time, he stayed home and took it easy for the week.

“Therealized then it was going to be really different,” Sykes says, “but I suspect I’ll get used to it.”

Sykes says he was initially drawn to Wofford by the faculty. He says he’ll miss the daily interactions with his colleagues.

“Everybody gets along so well,” he says. “I loved sitting in the faculty dining room with them and getting to know them.”

Sykes plans to take up woodworking and to work on some projects around his house. He also wants to travel. To keep his mind sharp, he’ll continue writing code.

“Writing code is as good as doing crossword puzzles,” he says.
Andrew Green is looking forward to the next phase of his career. He’s just not sure what it will be.

“I have some ideas of what that might involve,” says Green, associate professor of finance, who retired at the end of the semester after 15 years at Wofford. “I’m very interested in the community. I have been very fortunate. I want to do something that revolves around trying to give back at this stage.”

Teaching was phase two for Green, and one he enjoyed very much.

“I started part-time at Wofford and found out I loved it,” he says. “Fortunately, I guess I was good enough at it that they liked me. The following year (2007) they were hiring a full-time finance professor, and, ultimately, I got that position.”

Green developed several courses during his time at Wofford, including a “Cases in Finance” seminar for seniors that he started early on and continued through his final semester.

“I tried to make the world of business and finance real to my students. I am constantly teaching with examples from the business world and really from my own experience,” Green says.

His experience in the business world spanned 25 years — 15 in financial roles at Ryder Truck Rental and 10 more at Denny’s Restaurants, including as CFO. He often illustrates his lessons with examples from his time at Denny’s and takes classes on trips to the company’s Spartanburg headquarters.

When he left Denny’s in 2005, he figured he’d find a new position as a CFO and relocate, but he didn’t want to uproot his daughter, who was a sophomore in high school. He says Dr. Eddie Richardson, professor of business, convinced him to give Wofford a try.

Green says he’ll miss the relationships with the students and his colleagues.

“The great thing about being here is teaching and mentoring and advising students,” says Green. “You feel like you’re really contributing to someone’s path.”

His immediate plans include a monthlong trip to Europe, biking across Spain for a week and then spending three weeks in France. In January, he’ll lead an Interim trip to South Africa with Lillian Gonzalez ’91, professor of accounting. In between, he’ll work on his golf game and recharge.

“I’ll probably slow down a little bit,” Green says. “But I feel like I have another run in me. I just don’t know what it will be.”
“It means a lot to be recognized for doing what I love to do.”
Excellence in teaching

Dr. Lori Cruze earns S.C. Independent Colleges and Universities award

BY ROBERT W. DALTON

Dr. Lori Cruze is always looking for ways to make things better, both in her classroom and in the world around her.

Cruze is Wofford College’s recipient of the 2022 South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities’ Excellence in Teaching Award. The organization recognized faculty from each of its 21-member schools. This is the 15th year SCICU has recognized faculty with the awards, which have rigorous guidelines and come with a $3,000 professional development grant.

“I’m honored but also humbled because I’m surrounded by excellent teachers here at Wofford,” says Cruze, assistant professor of biology. “It means a lot to be recognized for doing what I love to do.”

Cruze taught genetics for the first time during the spring semester. Her courses also include biological inquiry, human physiology and comparative reproductive biology.

“I’m always trying to improve, taking the material and making it more digestible for the students,” she says. “Every time you teach a class you find things that might work better next time if we approached it this way or did it that way.”

She also is leading a group of students researching the reproduction and survival of songbirds in the Upstate. They recently installed 30 birdhouses at the Milliken Arboretum, and Cruze is delighted that more than half are already occupied.

Dr. John Moeller, professor and chair of biology, nominated Cruze for the award. He says her enthusiasm for teaching impacts everyone in the department.

“Dr. Cruze creates a welcoming learning environment from day one and then inspires her students to meet the challenging material throughout the course,” says Moeller. “I think it becomes clear that she knows the material and spends considerable time creating ways to help students understand the complexity of biology.”

Cruze arrived at Wofford in 2015. She previously worked at the Medical University of South Carolina as a postdoctoral fellow and research assistant professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Dr. Tim Schmitz, interim provost, says Wofford is fortunate to have Cruze.

“In her career at Wofford thus far, Dr. Cruze has made extraordinary contributions,” Schmitz says. “She is an excellent teacher and a tireless supporter of our biology students, and, as a faculty leader who has served on the President’s Advisory Council and co-directed our new faculty mentoring program, she has demonstrated how lucky we are to have her as a colleague.”
**CLASS NOTES**

**1959**

Dr. Olin Sansbury, chancellor emeritus of the University of South Carolina Upstate and a former visiting professor of government at Wofford, discussed his memoir, “Joint Ventures,” at the Darlington (S.C.) Library in February. “Joint Ventures” draws upon his life and reflects his view that “human existence is a web of joint ventures.”

**1966**

Tillman Abell was the featured speaker at the South Carolina Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum in Columbia, S.C., in April. His talk focused on his experiences in Vietnam. He completed ROTC training at Wofford and entered the U.S. Army as a second lieutenant in 1967. A retired teacher, he now lives in Cordova, S.C.

**1968**

Vietnam veteran and community leader Craig Burnette received the Order of the Palmetto at the grand opening of Warriors Once Again (WOA), a new transitional residence in Spartanburg for veterans experiencing homelessness. The Order of the Palmetto was presented on behalf of Gov. Henry McMaster by state Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary William Grimsley in recognition of Burnette’s lifetime of service to his country and community. It is the state’s highest civilian honor.

**1978**

Bruce Williams was installed as chief judge of the South Carolina State Court of Appeals on May 4. The state legislature elected him to the position on Feb. 2. He was first elected to the Court of Appeals in 2004. He began his career on the bench in 1995, when he was elected to the Fifth Judicial Circuit Family Court. During his tenure as a family court judge, he served as president of the South Carolina Conference of Family Court Judges, as well as secretary-treasurer. In 1997, he established the Richland County Juvenile Drug Court. He was awarded the Governor’s Program Achievement Award for Juvenile Drug Court the following year.

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**TAKING ACTION**

**U.S. ARMY CAPT. SABASTIAN CONOUR ’13 PROVIDES SHELTER FOR UKRAINIAN REFUGEES IN POLAND**

By Robert W. Dalton

U.S. Army Capt. Sebastian Conour ’13 journeyed to Poland in February to see the scars of a war long past and came face to face with the open wounds of a new conflict.

When Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine, Conour ran toward the battle. That’s what soldiers do.

Conour was in the middle of his leave, visiting the sites of World War II Nazi death camps when the invasion began. When he learned of Ukrainian refugees streaming into Poland, Conour headed for towns on the border. He didn’t know what he would do when he got there, but he knew he couldn’t just be a tourist any longer.

“I couldn’t see all these remnants of the horrors of the Holocaust and not do something,” Conour says. “It just happens that I was in the right place at the right time.”

Conour arrived at the train station in Przemysl with two large bags of supplies. But supplies were not an issue, he says, as residents lined the streets with carloads of food and clothing. The biggest need was shelter.

“Once I got there I could see there were so many people and no place to house them,” Conour says. “There were so many, and it was so cold outside. There were a couple of local places they were putting people in, but not enough.”

Most of the people crossing the border were women and children. Conour decided the best way for him to help was to provide safe places for them to stay, where they could get a shower and sleep in a warm bed. He began booking hotel rooms.

He used his own money in the beginning, but put up a GoFundMe page so he could help even more refugees. Donations poured in, reaching about $13,000 before he shut it down. Conour says about 25% of the donations came from members of the Wofford community.

Conour is now back on active duty and is stationed in Kuwait. Some money remains, and he’s working from afar to book rooms for the most vulnerable. He also hopes to provide short-term housing for at-risk families while they try to find work and rebuild their lives. He says if he can’t make that work, he’ll donate any remaining funds to the World Central Kitchen, which has been providing warm meals for refugees since the invasion began.

At last count, Conour has provided shelter for about 270 people. “A drop in the bucket,” he says.

Read more online.
Joseph Jackson ‘93 learned early in his construction career that the first thing you have to build is trust.

Those early lessons proved crucial for Jackson, Spartanburg Housing’s director of development, on the recently completed remodeling of Victoria Gardens. The entire 80-unit apartment complex was gutted and refurbished, a job that required residents to relocate while it was underway.

“The challenge was getting the residents to trust what we were telling them,” says Jackson. “We had to convince people who had lived here for 28 years that we were going to relocate them, move them back, and that everything would be OK.”

The project took several years to complete. Jackson said the wait was worth the result.

“Eighty families now have a new start, a new place to call home,” Jackson says.

Jackson, who grew up in Rowesville, S.C., has been with Spartanburg Housing for more than five years. He never imagined he’d end up there after graduation, when he went to work at Foot Locker as a management trainee.

His next stop was Metromont Materials Corp., where he worked as a sales manager for six years. He struck out on his own in 2000 as co-owner of McFadden and Jackson Construction Co. He followed that with stints at Harvest Group, where he is co-owner, and Spartanburg County Parks and Recreation.

In 2016, Spartanburg Housing reached out to him about coming on board as director of development. Even though the work was similar to his previous positions in the private sector, Jackson had to learn a new set of rules.

“I came to public housing with no public housing knowledge,” he says. “I came because I had the construction background, and that’s why they wanted me.”

With the completion of Victoria Gardens, Jackson is now focused on a new challenge. He says there are 500-plus Spartanburg Housing units that need to be rehabilitated or demolished. The first step is finding the funding.

“Spartanburg Housing doesn’t receive enough money to complete the work that needs to be done,” Jackson says. “We’re engaging in a new process where we partner with a developer to complete the work.”

Jackson says whatever the challenges, he’s prepared because of his experience as a Wofford student and athlete. He was a tight end for the Terriers.

“Wofford taught me discipline, how to persevere and how to manage my time,” Jackson says. “It taught me you have to work hard even when others aren’t watching.”
State Rep. Murrell Smith was elected speaker of the S.C. House of Representatives on April 28. He assumed his duties on May 12. Smith was first elected in 2000. In 2018, he was elected chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. He is a co-founder of the Smith Robinson law firm in Sumter, S.C. He has been recognized as a Best Lawyer by Best Lawyers in America for commercial litigation, as a Midlands Legal Elite for healthcare law by Columbia Business Monthly and as a Leadership in Law honoree by South Carolina Lawyer’s Weekly.

1992

OVG360 announced that Gregory A. O’Dell has joined the full-service venue management and hospitality company based in Philadelphia, Pa., as president of venue management. O’Dell started his new role in April after departing as CEO of Events DC, the official convention and sports authority for Washington, D.C. With more than 25 years of experience, O’Dell will lead the venue management line of business within OVG360, overseeing venue operations for more than 230 properties across the globe, including stadiums, arenas, convention centers, performing arts centers, cultural institutions and state fairgrounds. O’Dell is a current member of Wofford’s Board of Trustees. He is Wofford basketball’s third all-time leading scorer with 2,208 points, and he was inducted into the college’s Athletics Hall of Fame in 1997.

1993

Beth Jeter Hrubala is president and owner of Jeter Hrubala Wealth Strategies, a financial planning and investment management firm with offices in Spartanburg and Isle of Palms, S.C. She was recognized in the 2022 Forbes list of “Best-in-State Wealth Advisors,” the 2022 Forbes list of “America’s Top Women Advisors Best-in-State” and the 2021 Working Mother magazine’s list of “Top Wealth Advisor Moms.”

1995

Julie Gregg Warren and Mark Clinton Warren were married on Feb. 19, 2022. They live in Lexington, S.C., with their children, Thomas, Caroline and Robert.

First Reliance Bank has promoted Michael Edens to president of the Columbia, S.C., market. Edens has more than two decades of experience, most recently as a commercial banker. He will be responsible for the expansion of the Columbia market and will oversee sales management and community development. He received the Outstanding Young Banker Award in 2008, the highest award given by the state Bankers Association.

1997

Jon Zeigler has joined The CLIMB Fund, formerly the Charleston LDC, as director of lending. Previously, he was vice president of lending at SPC Credit Union in Hartsville, S.C.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Baseball’s Early Days

By Dr. Phillip Stone ’94

Baseball was introduced on campus in 1876 by Union soldiers. Letters from alumni of the 1880s share stories of games against other colleges as early as 1885. By the late 1890s, the sport had come to dominate college athletics. Students were largely responsible for organizing practices and scheduling games. By 1900, the team was a powerhouse, and the college graded and laid out a new baseball diamond between the football field and the railroad tracks. Fayssoux DuPré of the class of 1902 was a particularly strong pitcher, noted for his ability to throw a curve ball. He was admitted Walter K. Greene, class of 1903, played on the team when he was a student.

The Wofford College Journal in May-June 1902 reported on the last few baseball games of that season.

“Our ball team went to Knoxville, Tennessee, where they played two games with the University of Tennessee on April 25 and 26, respectively. A local paper at Knoxville remarked that the varsity expected to live on Easy Street while Wofford was there. But they were rudely awakened on the afternoon of the first game, the black and old gold waving above them with a score 8 to 7. The second game was still more decisive, the score being 17 to 4 in favor of the boys from South Carolina. Wofford pulled together beautifully with something like the results experienced in ‘ye olden times.’ When the results of these games were announced on the campus, the hearty reception of the news, the yelling, singing and speech-making reminded one of the famous days of ’99 and ’00. The boys of the team report excellent treatment by the Tennesseans.”

“The great South Atlantic States Music Festival annually attracts large numbers of the most cultured class of people from South Carolina and the neighboring states to Spartanburg. Wofford has always tried to do their part in entertaining these visitors. This year games of ball were played on the college grounds.”

“On April 30, Furman came over from Greenville and crossed bats with the home team. There were no interesting features to the game, and Wofford added another victory to her list, having made 14 runs to Furman’s 1.”

“On May 1, Trinity and Wofford met, and a battle royal ensued. The game was hard played on both sides from first to last. Trinity has a splendid team and made it hot for the home boys but the latter finally won by a score of 4 to 3.”

“The last game of the season was played at Clemson College. The Clemsonites there defeated the Wofford boys to the tune of 6 to 3 in a clean, snappy game of ball.”

1998

Jill Kelley Beasenburg has joined Carolina One Real Estate as an agent. She is based in the Isle of Palms office. She is also a physical therapist.

2001

NBC “TODAY” show host Craig Melvin was awarded the honorary Doctor of Public Service degree during the University of South Carolina’s commencement exercises on May 7. He delivered the commencement address. Melvin, a member of Wofford’s board of trustees, signed off as a weekday anchor on MSNBC for the final time on March 31 after 10 years at the network. He is focusing on his duties as “TODAY” show host.

Wes Selivew has joined Princeton Mortgage in Charleston, S.C. He has 20 years of experience as a mortgage banker in both Boston, Mass., and Charleston, and he is one of the top loan originators in the nation.

2002

Lisa Cameron McMillan has been named the executive director of human resources for Greenwood School District 50. She came to the district from Greenwood Mills, where she was the human resources director for more than six years. Before that, she worked as an attorney for seven years after graduating from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 2007.
2003
Andrea Peabody Westmoreland, a certified child life specialist at Levine Children’s Hospital in Charlotte, N.C., was recently the subject of a “day in the life” feature on the Atrium Health website. She has been with the hospital for 18 years.

2004
Hospice and Palliative Care of Iredell County (N.C.) has promoted Dr. Erin Kelley Carnes to chief medical officer. She will provide leadership and medical oversight for both palliative and hospice care programs at Hospice and Palliative Care of Iredell County. Carnes is board-certified in emergency medicine and has received her hospice medical director certification. She joined HPCIC with several years of hospice and palliative care experience in both the home and inpatient settings.

Womble Bond Dickinson announced that Shawan Gillians has joined the Charleston, S.C., office as of counsel in the firm’s capital markets practice group. Gillians, a current member of Wofford’s board of trustees, joins the firm from Santee Cooper, the state’s largest public power provider, where she most recently served as the director of legal services and corporate secretary.

Coastal Carolina National Bank has named Kelly Harvey its vice president/mortgage loan originator in Spartanburg. She spent 14 years in commercial banking before venturing into mortgage lending.

2006
Joseph Bias was a Richland County (S.C.) School District Two Black History Month honoree in the education category. He is the general counsel and a special advisor to the president of Midlands Technical College. In 2019, he was selected as a co-winner of the S.C. Bar Association’s Young Lawyer of the Year award.

The Clemson Young Alumni Council presented a 2021 Roaring10 award to Dr. Daniel Ross Thompson, laboratory manager in Clemson University’s Department of Physics and Astronomy. He supervises graduate teaching assistants, provides lecture demonstrations, conducts science outreach programs and serves as building security coordinator. Recipients are recognized for their impact in business, leadership, community, educational and philanthropic endeavors.

2007
The University of Toledo has selected Bryan B. Blair, the former chief operating officer and deputy director of athletics at Washington State University, as the Rockets’ new vice president for intercollegiate athletics and director of athletics. Blair began at Toledo on May 1. At Washington State, he led the team of sports administrators responsible for day-to-day oversight of the university’s 17 varsity sports programs as well as overseeing several departmental units focused on student-athlete success.

Geno Thompson has been named head football coach at West Orange High School in Winter Garden, Fla.

2008
Campbell Oates and Christine Oates welcomed baby Brennan Hunter Oates on Dec. 23, 2021. Campbell is a senior account manager and field sales trainer at Smith and Nephew Advanced Wound Management in Atlanta, Ga.

Alex Sturgis and Melanie Sturgis celebrated the birth of their son, Webb Alexander Sturgis, July 19, 2021. Webb joins his two sisters, Elliot (7) and Eleanor (5). Alex is business development manager at Siemens Industry in Columbia, S.C.

2009
The Beach Company has hired Patrick Seignious as a property management assistant to support the administration responsibilities of all commercial properties across the Southeast. Seignious will be based at the company’s headquarters in Charleston, S.C. He
previously served in multiple roles at Kiawah Island Golf Resort.

2010
Mike McDonnell was recently named one of Golf Digest’s Top 50 Trainers in America. McDonnell, who operates his own personal training business, Coach Mike Mac in Charleston, is the only trainer from South Carolina to make the list. He played baseball while at Wofford.

2011
Benebone, a leading brand of high-quality USA-made dog chews, has appointed Nate Harceg its chief growth officer. He joins Benebone in Miami, Fla., with over a decade of retail and consumer goods leadership experience, most recently as the head of toys for Chewy. Prior to Chewy, he held a variety of roles at Walmart, including several merchant roles within dry grocery and customer experience marketing.

Lisle Traywick III, an attorney with Robinson Gray Steep & Lafitte in Columbia, S.C., has been named to the state Supreme Court’s Pro Bono Honor Roll for his extensive commitment to pro bono service in 2021. Traywick provided more than 100 hours of pro bono service over the past year.

2012
Brodie Hart was recently the subject of a feature in the Interior Journal in Stanford, Ky. Hart has worked as a television reporter for the past nine years, including stints with Fox 5 in San Diego, Calif., and the past six and half years at ABC News 4 in Charleston, S.C. He left ABC News 4 to begin a new career doing internal communications and video storytelling for a biotech firm in Charleston.

Meg Wilson and Jeremy Richards were married on Sept. 11, 2021 in Savannah, Ga. She is a school social worker with Gaston County (N.C.) Schools.

2015
Hank Davis has joined the South Carolina Restaurant and Lodging Association as vice president of government affairs and community relations.

Dr. Aristide Gumyusenge joined the Department of Materials Science and Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in January. He will hold the Merton C. Flemings Career Development Professorship. His research background and interests are in semiconducting polymers, their processing and characterization and their role in the future of electronics.

Alex Hunt North and Wiley North ’16 welcomed their son, Wiley Whitaker North Jr., on Nov. 12, 2021. Wiley is a commercial sales associate at Coldwell Banker Commercial Caine in Spartanburg.

Nancy Cameron Smith and Patrick Kershaw Smith were married on April 2, 2022. She is an assistant vice president and portfolio manager with Truist Bank in Washington, D.C. He is the deputy director of preservation and facilities at the Washington National Cathedral.

2016
Annamaria Hidalgo and Chandler Christensen were married on Feb. 26, 2022. She is a sales support assistant at Sealed Air Corp. in Seaview, Wash.

Phifer Nicholson is one of 14 medical students chosen for the 2022 medical program of the Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics (FASPE). The 2022 fellowship will take place in Germany and Poland in the summer. Nicholson is a doctor of medicine candidate at the Duke University School of Medicine and a theology, medicine and culture fellow at Duke Divinity School. His professional and research interests include health equity, social medicine, ethnography, global health and the intersection of theology and medicine.

2017
Jennifer Espenschied Drerup will complete her physician resident training in urology at the Medical University of South Carolina. She earned her M.D. from Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, and will relocate to Charleston this summer.

2018
Katie Beuerlein Kemple has been selected for a dermatology residency at the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta. She graduated with a doctor of medicine from Wake Forest School of Medicine in May.

Krishna Shah matched at Duke University Hospital for a two-year pharmacy residency in health system administration and leadership.

2019
Matt Green obtained a master’s degree in public health in epidemiology from Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health. The research that he conducted while working on his degree was recently published in “Hypertension,” an American Heart Association journal.

Peyton Walker has been named coach of the Tampa Thunder basketball program’s 2025 team. The Thunder is a travel basketball team.

2021
Hughes Agency in Greenville, S.C., has hired Mary Catherine Beecy as account executive. Beecy previously worked as an intern for the Hughes Agency. She has interned with Spartanburg-based creative marketing agency Launch Something, as well as Heart of Hospice, where she assisted with marketing and human resource tasks.

FACULTY AND STAFF
Colleen Ballance, Dr. Courtney Dorroll and Dr. Philip Dorroll co-authored the article “Seeing and Hearing Omar Ibn Said,” for the Review of Middle East Studies, published online by Cambridge University Press. Ballance is associate professor and chair of theatre. Courtney Dorroll is an associate professor of religion and interim co-director of the Center for Innovation and Learning. Philip Dorroll is an associate professor of religion.

Dr. Ken Banks, associate professor of history, has published a review of “The Death of the French Atlantic” by Alan Forrest in the American Historical Review.

Dr. Peter Brewitt, assistant professor and chair of environmental studies, and Lawson Giles ’21 have published the article “Red wolf science and identity storylines in an online discursive community” in Environmental Science and Policy.

Dr. Kirsten Krick-Aigner, professor of German, co-published the article “Environmental Justice Modules: A Case Study Approach for Intermediate and Advanced German Learners” in the journal Die Unterrichtspraxis/Teaching German.

Dr. Rachel Grotheer, assistant professor of mathematics, and co-authors have published the article “A Simple Recovery Framework for Signals with Time-Varying Sparse Support” in Advances in Data Science.

Dr. Aaron Harp, assistant professor of music, has contributed an interview with Henry Leck to the book “In Search of Inspiration: Interviews with Notable Choral Conductors.”

Dr. Dane Hilton, assistant professor of psychology, and co-authors have published the article “Are brief behavioral parenting group interventions effective in rural communities? A feasibility study in Central Appalachia” in the Journal of Rural Mental Health. Hilton also has
been appointed to the editorial board of Journal of Rural Mental Health as of Jan. 1.

Dr. Trina Janiec Jones, professor of religion, recently published the article “A Theology of Increasing Adequacy: Process, Practicality, and Relationship” in the Journal of Interreligious Studies. This article was part of a special edition of the JIRS titled “The Spiritual But Not Religious and Theology Without Walls.” Additionally, Jones was part of a daylong symposium in February sponsored by the Center for Culture, Society and Religion at Princeton University titled “Translating Sanskrit Buddhist Philosophy for the Philosophy Curriculum.” The symposium focused on the work of the Vasubandhu Translation Group, of which she is a member, and its draft translation of Gupta period Buddhist scholastic Vasubandhu’s “Twenty Verses and Exposition.” She served as the respondent to the symposium’s keynote address. She also was invited to write for the University of Chicago Divinity School’s Craft of Teaching blog this semester. Her first post, “Rediscovering Joy,” was published on March 18.

The South Carolina Football Hall of Fame has named President Emeritus Joe Lesesne its Humanitarian of the Year. As president, he led Wofford through some of its most pivotal growth as an institution academically, athletically and physically. After his retirement as president, Lesesne continued to teach history classes and serve as a volunteer assistant football coach, working with the tight ends (2001-04). He became the director of football operations for former coach Mike Ayers and served in that capacity until 2016.

Dr. Ingrid Lilly, assistant professor of religion, published the article “The Corporeality of the Self: The Example of Bitter Nefeš as an Ethnomedical Syndrome” in the peer-review journal, Dead Sea Discoveries.

Dr. Dawn McQuiston, associate professor of psychology, was invited to present her research on the science of eyewitness memory at the South Carolina Circuit Court Judges Conference in May.

Dr. Jeremy Morris, assistant professor of biology, co-authored the article “Scaling of fibre area and fibre glycogen concentration in the hindlimb musculature of monitor lizards: Implications for locomotor performance with increasing body size” in the Journal of Experimental Biology. The article appears in a special issue titled Building New Paradigms in Comparative Physiology and Biomechanics. Morris also co-authored the article “Reversing the lens on public engagement with science: Positive benefits for participating scientists” in the journal BioScience.

Dr. Katharine Putney, assistant professor of biology, co-authored the paper “The effects of varying nutrient availability on females and hermaphrodites of the gynodioecious Geranium maculatum,” which has been accepted for publication in the journal Castanea.

Dr. Charles Smith, associate professor of biology, has co-edited the book “Reptiles of the Trans-Pecos Texas” by Michael S. Price.

Dr. Rachel Vanderhill, associate professor of government and international affairs, and Dr. Courtney Dorroll recently published the article “Teaching, Self-Care, and Reflective Practice during a Pandemic” in PS: Political Science and Politics. In response to the article, the University of Kentucky political science department invited Vanderhill and Dorroll to give a talk in April as part of its teacher training lecture series.
Imagine living with a throbbing tooth for weeks... or even months.

A collective of dentists from Charleston to Myrtle Beach rotate through the Helping Hands Dental Clinic to give people relief. Dr. Nick Papadea ’94 worked the second week the clinic opened in 2013.

“Before the clinic opened, people had to go to the emergency room. Now we have a space and chairs and equipment and dentists like Dr. Tyler Perry ’09 and Dr. Lindsay Harper Moore ’01,” says Papadea.

According to Tracy Jones, operations manager for Helping Hands of Georgetown Inc., the first year the clinic opened, 287 patients came for free dental services. During 2021, the clinic saw 533, and the services have expanded.

“It’s very rewarding,” says Moore, who rotates through the clinic every six weeks. “Our clients don’t have insurance or Medicaid or Medicare. Some don’t have rides. Some sit and wait for hours. Everyone I’ve ever encountered has been appreciative.”

When Perry walks in, he knows that people have been waiting. He also knows that the clients are uncertain and anxious.

“I try to engage and meet them where they are,” he says. “When I walk in, I thank them for waiting and tell them that we’re going to help them out. I work on their teeth, but I also listen. I started volunteering in the extraction clinic to get more involved in the community, taking a holistic approach seems to make more of an impact.”

Perry, whose dad is Dr. L.R. Perry ’76, joined the dental clinic team in 2020. He considered following in his dad’s footsteps and pursuing a career in anesthesiology, but a dental shadowing experience as a Wofford student changed that.

“I remember a patient coming into the office off the street. He was crying and talking about living with the pain for months. He didn’t have money, but he promised to work for services,” says Perry. “The dentist brought him to a chair, numbed him up and removed the tooth. This guy came in crying and left with a smile on his face. That’s when I knew that dentistry was for me. And Wofford made that possible. Working in the clinic is a way to pay that back.”

Papadea says the clinic started with a group of local residents and interested citizens — Benny DuBose, Dick Rose and Dick Schwab — sitting around a table at Debordieu discussing community need.

“Some were in health care, some weren’t,” says Papadea, “but they all cared about this place and its people. ... Benny got me involved, and, early on, he and I would ride around and pick up used equipment. We drove all over South Carolina.”

According to Papadea, several Wofford graduates helped the clinic get on its feet. The family of Dr. Pat Worrell ’64 donated some of his equipment after his death.

The clinic is a partnership with Tidelands Health, St. James Santee Health Clinic and Delta Dental. In the beginning, the clinic offered extractions only. Now there are opportunities for free exams, restorative care and cleanings.

“There’s so much need out there. It would be great to provide denture service or crowns ... maybe partner with a lab,” says Papadea, who serves as president of the South Carolina Dental Association and is in practice with Perry (Drs. Papadea & Perry Family and Cosmetic Dentistry in Pawleys Island).

To make additional services available, Moore, who owns Gentle Dentistry of Andrews and Georgetown, S.C., says they need additional volunteers. Retirees, dental students and practitioners who want to make a difference in the community are all welcome. Moore serves on the Helping Hands board and feels passionately about its mission.

“I’m from here. Being a part of this is a way I can give back to the community that raised me,” she says.
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.

**THREE ALUMNI ELECTED TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

By Dudley Brown

John Bauknight ’89 of Spartanburg, David G. Johnson ’98 of Spartanburg and Dorothy Acee Thomas ’96 of Gainesville, Fla., were elected to serve on the college’s board of trustees during the South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church in June.

Bauknight, president of Longleaf Holdings and senior associate with NAI Earle Furman, is an entrepreneur and community leader. Johnson is CEO of Morgan Corp., a multi-discipline heavy civil construction company with operations across the southeastern United States. Thomas, who worked as an attorney with a large New York firm, is an active community volunteer, specifically with issues related to child advocacy and equity.

“Our newest trustees have generously shared their time with the college over the years, and we are fortunate to have these alumni leaders on the board,” says Dr. Nayef Samhat, Wofford’s president.

Bauknight, Johnson and Thomas are filling vacancies left by Neel Hipp of Greenville, S.C., Betty Montgomery of Campobello, S.C., Wendi Nix ’96 of New York, N.Y., and Stanley E. Porter ’89 of Chevy Chase, Md. Hipp, Montgomery and Porter each served the maximum of 12 consecutive years on the board. Nix is stepping down after eight years of service that began in 2014.

Four trustees were re-elected to new four-year terms: Ashley Richardson Allen, Ronnie Andrews ’81, Christopher A.P. Carpenter ’90 and Erin Mitchell Watson ’91.

During its May meeting, the Wofford College Board of Trustees elected officers for the 2022-23 academic year. Carpenter will remain as chairman of the board. Allen will serve as vice chair, and the Rev. Will Malambri ’98 will serve as secretary.

Wofford has 31 trustees who serve as the governing body of the college under the terms of the will of the college’s founder, the Rev. Benjamin Wofford, and by the state’s articles of incorporation. Trustees are elected to staggered four-year terms by the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. Tenure is limited to 12 consecutive years.

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Call the Alumni Office at 864-597-4185.
IN MEMORIAM

1951
The Rev. Phil Mace Jones, April 3, 2022, Columbia, S.C. Mace, a retired United Methodist minister, served at churches across South Carolina for 45 years. He served as chaplain for a day in the U.S. House of Representatives while Tip O’Neill was speaker of the house. He was a founding member of the Tuomey Foundation at Tuomey Hospital in Sumter, S.C., and served on the board of the L. O’Neill Trust Fund, which helped students attend college. He served on the Wofford College Board of Trustees from 1972-84.

1953
Dr. David Gatlin Byrd, March 28, 2022, Columbia, S.C. Byrd was a high school teacher for three years before joining the U.S. Army. After leaving the military, he earned his doctorate in English at the University of South Carolina. He taught at USC for 26 years, earning the Teacher of the Year award in 1980. He was an avid supporter of the arts. He held a lifetime membership to The National Film Society and was a founding member of Workshop Theatre of South Carolina. He enjoyed reading and socializing with friends, which often included playing cards or traveling. He enjoyed tending to his garden, and his well-known guilty pleasure was collecting Santa Claus figurines.

John Earl Calvert Jr., April 27, 2022, Clayton, N.C. Calvert was a teacher, coach, assistant principal and principal during a career in education that spanned more than 40 years. He loved playing golf, especially with his grandson. He also liked going to Gatlinburg on vacations with his family, playing miniature golf and eating turtles from the Smokey Bear Candy Kitchen. He enjoyed a good steak from the Peddler Steak House.

Dr. Clarence Birnie Johnson Jr., April 29, 2022, Orangeburg, S.C. Johnson specialized in internal medicine and later hematology and oncology. He was the medical director at H.F. Mabry Center for Cancer Care from 1988 to 2006, and after retirement he volunteered at the Orangeburg Free Clinic. He received the Kiwanis Club “Citizen of the Year” award in 1999. He was a member of St. Andrew’s United Methodist Church.

1954
Harry LeGette Parker, April 11, 2022, Columbia, S.C. Parker served in the U.S. Army for three years during the Korean War. He started a CPA practice in Hartsville, S.C., after holding a variety of positions, including comptroller at Wild Dunes resort and as a staff member for former Gov. Jim Edwards.

Elliott F. “Eli” Sanders, May 6, 2022, James Island, S.C. A native of Blackville, S.C., Sanders joined the U.S. Army before finishing high school and served for about a year in Germany as World War II was coming to an end. He attended Wofford on a football scholarship and scored the Terriers’ lone touchdown in a 1953 game against Auburn University. He was inducted into the Wofford College Athletics Hall of Fame in 1991. After graduating, Sanders taught school and coached before moving into the highway construction industry. In 1962 he and his brother, Jimmy, co-founded Sanders Brothers Construction Co. in North Charleston with the loan of a single dump truck. Sanders was a generous annual supporter of the college, and in 2006 he funded the first-floor renovation of Main Building. The plaza of Gibbs Stadium was dedicated in his honor in October 2021. In 2007, the Southern Conference recognized Sanders with a Distinguished Service Award. That same year, Sanders’ wife, Helen, and sons, Greg and Ell, established the Eli F. Sanders Endowed Football Scholarship Fund in his honor.

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Philip Hamlet Gibson Sr., March 30, 2022, Hampton, Va. A U.S. Navy veteran, Gibson had a 39-year career as a ship designer at Newport News Shipbuilding. He also earned his real

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“He told me he thought I’d be a good English teacher,” says Timmons. “It was a brief, simple comment, and I’m not sure I’ve ever lived up to his ideals perfectly. But that small comment gave me such confidence.”

Welchel, former professor and chair of the college’s Teacher Education Program, died on March 9. He retired in 2021 after 21 years of service.

“He was the most important person in my professional life,” says Timmons, Wofford’s student publications manager and an English teacher at Chapman High School. “He encouraged and supported my development as a student and as a teacher.”

Welchel was a graduate of Spartanburg High School and the University of South Carolina, where he earned his bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees. He taught at Dorman, Woodruff and Boiling Springs high schools in Spartanburg County and at Wilson High School in Florence before coming to Wofford.

Dr. Timothy Schmitz, interim provost, says Welchel enjoyed working with future teachers and preparing them to teach future generations.


Christie Johnson ’95, senior instructor of education, worked with Welchel for nine years. She says he made a lasting impact on every student he taught.

“Teaching was so much more than a job to him,” Johnson says. “It was his greatest passion. He loved having discussions with his students and creating relationships with all of them. He was more than a colleague to me; he was also a very dear friend. He is sorely missed in the education department.”

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The Hon. Raymond Converse “Ray” Eubanks Jr., March 23, 2022, Spartanburg, S.C. Eubanks served as a probate judge in Spartanburg County for almost 25 years. He was later appointed the county’s drug court judge and retired in 2018. He was a longtime advocate for those needing drug and alcohol treatment. In 2018, the United Way of the Piedmont, the Spartanburg Area Mental Health Center and Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System celebrated the grand opening of the Eubanks Peer-Support Living Room near Spartanburg Medical Center. The Peer-Support Living Room is designed to be a safe space where individuals can find support and resources to prevent a behavioral health crisis. Eubanks served his profession in many capacities, including as secretary/treasurer, president-elect and president of the National College of Probate Judges and president of the South Carolina Bar Association. He was a member of Second Presbyterian Church of Spartanburg for more than 75 years. A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, Eubanks attained the rank of captain. He was elected to the state House of Representatives in 1964 and served two terms. While at Wofford, he played basketball and ran track.

Dr. Vernon Wilson Goodlett, April 23, 2022, Kingsport, Tenn. Goodlett spent his career with Tennessee Eastman. He began as a research chemist and was named head of the physical and analytical chemistry division in 1970. He later held several positions in the research and development division, retiring in 1992 as director of research and development planning. He was an accomplished woodworker and enjoyed restoring classic sports cars. He also enjoyed a friendly game of bridge, including over 50 years with a long-standing regular eight-man group where, even at age 80-plus, he could claim to be the group’s youngest. His father also graduated from Wofford, and Goodlett liked to tell the story of how, when he was a sophomore, his father showed up for his 50th class reunion.

David Furman Herbert, March 21, 2022, Asheville, N.C. A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, Herbert earned the American Spirit Honor Medal. After working briefly as a federal probation officer in Washington, D.C., he moved to Roanoke, Va., where he was the founding executive director of the Roanoke Valley Health and Welfare Planning Council and served as the president of the Virginia State Council, National Association of Social Workers. His career as a social worker took him to North Carolina, California and Virginia before settling in Asheville, N.C., where he was active in the community. A passionate runner, he competed in the Senior Olympic Games. He used his medals to honor members of the community who were supportive to seniors, presenting a gold medal as a token of appreciation to many.

Dr. John Louis Tate, March 31, 2022, Spartanburg, S.C. After graduating from the Medical College of Virginia School of Dentistry, Tate worked at the VA Hospital in Richmond, Va., before entering the U.S. Air Force. He returned to Spartanburg and opened his dentistry practice following military service. He was a longtime member of St. John’s Lutheran Church, where he was a member of the choir, a Sunday school teacher and a lay leader. He also was a member of the Downtown Sertoma Club. He was a two-year letterman on the Wofford football team.

Philip Gordon Pitts, Feb. 15, 2022, Greer, S.C. The owner of Gordon Pitts & Associates Realty Group, Pitts received several awards for his accomplishments in real estate. He was a member of Memorial United Methodist Church. His love for music and playing the trumpet took him on many journeys conducting and playing with several bands.

Oliver Blake Webber Jr., May 8, 2022, Florence, S.C. Webber was a veteran of the Army Reserve. He retired from Milliken and Co. after 33 years. He was a former member of the British Car Club and an avid golfer. He was a member of St. Luke Lutheran Church.

Glen R. Melton, March 23, 2022, Moore, S.C. Melton was the owner of the Glen R. Melton Insurance Agency and a veteran of the National Guard. He was a former Alumni Association board member. He was an avid tennis player and enjoyed golf, fishing and horseback riding. He was a member of First Presbyterian Church of Spartanburg, the Spartanburg Lions Club and the Piedmont Club. He also was a master gardener.

Jesse Linwood Wade Jr., April 24, 2022, Conway, S.C. Wade was a real estate broker for 40 years, retiring from Beverly Homes. He was a veteran who served in the U.S. Army Reserve and a longtime member of Westminster Presbyterian Church, where he served as an elder and deacon. Wade was actively involved in the community and served as treasurer for the Shriners Pedalers. His lawn was meticulous, and he enjoyed exercising and running 5K road races.

Heyward Charlie “Buddy” Luckey, Feb. 18, 2022, Beaufort, S.C. A veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, Luckey served in Vietnam. He worked for the Bank of Beaufort, which brought him to Hilton Head Island, where he lived for nearly 40 years. He dedicated much of his time to participating in and supporting charities. He was a member of the Kiwanis Club of Hilton Head and a longtime supporter of the Wounded Warrior Project.

Clarence Odell “C.O.” Koon, Feb. 7, 2022, Shelby, N.C. Koon retired from Burlington Industries and later drove a bus for Lynx and Carolina Charter. He was an active member of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church.

Thomas Theodore Lewandowski, March 19, 2022, Louisville, Ky. Lewandowski earned his law degree from the University of South Carolina in 1968. He found his career passion late in life as a professor of law. He lettered in basketball while at Wofford and was inducted into the Delaware Basketball Legends Hall of Fame in 2013.
**IN MEMORIAM**

Kenneth Lee Loftis Sr., April 5, 2022, Inman, S.C. Loftis was a social worker with the S.C. Department of Social Services. He earned his Wofford degree after serving in the National Guard. He was a former member of the Lions Club and enjoyed trading stocks, carpentry and woodworking.

Dr. Douglas Wayne Whetsell Sr., April 7, 2022, Fayetteville, N.C. Whetsell was a practicing critical care pulmonologist for 50 years. He served in the U.S. Air Force and later joined the Army Reserve to care for patients at Fort Bragg during the Gulf War. He permanently retired from the military in 1996 after reaching the rank of colonel. He was an avid gardener and spent many hours tending to his thriving, varied and beautiful garden. He delighted in sharing photos of his bounty and more recently attempting to impart his love of horticulture to his young grandchildren. He loved a good ball-game of any type, a good book, his dog Maggie and his family. He was also known to never say no to a bowl of ice cream.

**1966**

Joseph Alfred “Footsie” Borum Jr., Feb. 14, 2022, Lexington, S.C. A U.S. Army veteran, Borum served two tours of duty in Vietnam. He earned the Bronze Star and the Vietnam Service Medal with one Silver Service Star and one Bronze Service Star in 1970. He ended his active duty in 1972 but continued to serve as an officer in the Army Reserve until retiring as a lieutenant colonel in 2004. He had a 26-year career with Spartan Foods Systems. After leaving Spartan Foods, he served in various management positions in the food service industry until retiring at age 70. In retirement, he enjoyed visiting family and friends in Virginia Beach and Alabama and achieved his lifelong goal of visiting all 50 states. He attended Wofford on a full athletic scholarship, playing football and baseball.

**1967**

Edwin Newman “Ted” Beery Jr., April 1, 2022, Craftsbury, Vt. Beery loved the snow, and he spent his entire career as a social worker in Morrisville, Vt. He first worked for the state doing child abuse investigations and later at the Lamoille Family Center working with children who had been in the foster care system. He also was a board member of Laraway Youth and Family Services and later president of the board. He liked to sharpen knives for friends, drop by for a visit, listen to music and, above all, lift weights. He died peacefully sitting by the fire at home.

**1968**

John William Mitchell Jr., March 5, 2022, Columbia, S.C. After a two-year stint in the National Guard, Mitchell joined the family business at Mitchell Music Co. in Columbia. After selling the business in 1985, he began a six-year run as the director of development at Camden Military Academy. He followed that with a 14-year career in sales for the Cline Co. in Greenville, S.C., and for various companies selling fire trucks. At the same time, he became involved in firefighting, first as a volunteer in Columbia and later spending 14 years as either the chief or assistant chief of the Hobbysville department in Spartanburg County. He received both the Firefighter of the Year Award and the Top Gun Award during his time at Hobbysville. He also served as president of the Spartanburg County Fire Chiefs’ Association and was selected to the hall of fame in 2014.

**1969**

Joseph Edwin “Joe” Worley, April 13, 2022, Tulsa, Okla. Worley led the Tulsa World newsroom as executive editor for 19 years before retiring in 2014. He joined the newspaper in 1987. Out of his 45 years in journalism, he spent 27 years at the World. A member of the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame, Worley was named an official Tulsa Press Club Tulsa Media Icon. He was recognized often for his emphasis on inclusion and diversity in coverage, receiving honors from the Islamic Society of Tulsa, the Tulsa Association of Black Journalists, Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry and the Dan Allen Center for Social Justice. He also was a retired lieutenant colonel with the Oklahoma National Guard. He served 34 years between Tennessee and Oklahoma units.

**1971**

Wayne Neil Billings, March 28, 2022, Spartanburg, S.C. After beginning his career with AT&T, Billings moved to St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, in 1987 and started his own marketing firm, Image Concepts. He returned to South Carolina in 1997 and began his final career as a financial planner in Greenville. He also served in the National Guard. He loved cooking, especially new dishes, and was always open to adventures.

**1972**

Larry Alman Gable, May 1, 2022, Spartanburg, S.C. Gable was a veteran of the U.S. Army Reserve. He began his teaching career in Spartanburg School District 2 in 1974 and moved to District 6 in 1979, where he taught seventh grade science at Gable Middle School. He also coached volleyball and Dorman High School softball. He was an active member of Roe baptist Church, where he served as a Sunday school teacher and deacon and was active in missionary work. He was an avid gardener and yard care specialist. He loved the outdoors, fishing, hunting and spending time with his family and friends.

**1973**

William Way Fick Jr., Feb. 13, 2022, St. Matthews, S.C. Fick was retired from International Paper's Wateree Mill. He was proud of the National Wildlife Federation’s recognition of his 20-plus acres with its Certified Wildlife Habitat Certificate, and he enjoyed long days in the woods and rivers surrounding his home.

**1974**

Roderick Mark Buie III, Feb. 27, 2022, Greensboro, N.C. Buie taught elementary school in the North Carolina mountains, picked apples in Vermont, painted houses in Nantucket, wrote songs and played guitar in bars (his dog Spot passed the hat for tips) and roamed the Americas until he joined the Peace Corps and was sent to Tibet. He returned to work for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Washington, D.C. Buie returned to school in his 30s and earned degrees in nursing and public health. He joined the Peace Corps for a second time, serving two years in Honduras. When he returned, he settled in New Orleans, La., and worked at Tulane.

Paul Lee Ramsey Sr., March 13, 2022, Rutherfordton, N.C. A U.S. Army veteran, Ramsey spent his career working in textile mills, including 24 years at Spartan Mills and 18 at the Inman Mills Ramey Plant. He served as a deacon and taught Sunday school at Piedmont Baptist Church in Chesnee for more than three decades. In his final weeks when he couldn’t make the trip to church, church members came to his house to hear him teach. He was a year-round coach, teaching his children, grandchildren and hundreds of others to play baseball, football and basketball.
Dr. Victor Bilanchone Jr., Wofford College professor of music emeritus, is remembered for his jovial spirit, his care for students and colleagues and knowing how to get the best out of his choral groups.

He died on April 27 at Spartanburg Regional Hospice Home. He was 82.

“I will miss Vic desperately,” says Dr. Al Jeter ’74. “I honor these 50 years of friendship. I’m grateful he was part of my life.”

Bilanchone, who served 29 years as Wofford’s director of music, arrived on campus in 1972. Jeter says students immediately felt a new level of excitement.

Bilanchone took groups to perform concerts across the Southeast during spring break, and he formed the college’s first SATB (soprano, alto, tenor and bass) ensembles. He would invite women from Converse College (now Converse University) to participate, and there were performances with full orchestras.

“He always went above and beyond because he wanted more for all of his groups and singers than a basic minimum,” Jeter says. “That’s quite a gift. That’s when you know someone is not just simply trying to earn their check.”

Jeter’s relationship with Bilanchone continued to grow over the years. Bilanchone became familiar with Wofford through his involvement with the Lake Junaluska Singers, the resident performing ensemble for the United Methodist camp at Lake Junaluska in North Carolina. When the group needed a baritone, Bilanchone recommended a baritone, Bilanchone recommended

Jeter. Jeter joined Central United Methodist Church and its choir, and Bilanchone would occasionally help the choir before becoming its director for 30 years.

Jeter says Bilanchone insisted on excellence with choral groups, and he expected everyone to follow their assignment, but he was never antagonistic. He always created an environment that fostered positive and cooperative attitudes.

Jeter performed as a soloist during a concert honoring Bilanchone at his retirement. Now retired himself, Jeter credits Bilanchone’s influence on his 45-year career in public education as a teacher and administrator.

“When you work with people, you have to treat them with respect. Then they will do their best,” Jeter says. “How can we be less than that when we have good models and examples like Vic?”

Bilanchone is survived by his wife, Linda Powers Bilanchone, Wofford professor emerita of English, and the couple’s three adult children: Patrick, Jodi and Jill.

Thom Henson ’96, Wofford’s director of parent engagement, says Bilanchone’s impact on Wofford, Central United Methodist Church and Spartanburg will be felt for many years to come.

“When you heard a choir directed by Vic sing ‘When I Survey the Wondrous Cross,’ you had been to church,” says Henson. “Dr. B made everyone feel like a star, whether you could carry a tune or not. I will miss hearing him recap his latest round of golf and asking me what was going on at Wofford.”

Gary McCraw ’77, professor and director of music, was Bilanchone’s student accompanist for three years. They were reunited several years later and worked together for nearly two decades.

“When he took the Scarritt College position in 1982-83, I was hired back as accompanist and remained his accompanist until his retirement in 2001,” says McCraw. “During those years we shared some great experiences, among them Wofford choral trips to London, Italy, Bermuda and throughout the great state of South Carolina. Vic was not only my teacher, but my mentor, and, most importantly, my friend.”

1977

Arthur Steven Alexander, March 10, 2022, Abbeville, S.C. Alexander was the owner and operator of Frontier Adjusters. He was an avid reader and outdoorsman. He was a member of Main Street United Methodist Church.

1978

John Thorne Camby, Feb. 22, 2022, Spartanburg, S.C. Camby was the owner of Piedmont Textiles and Recycling. He was a member of First Presbyterian Church of Spartanburg.

1979

William Webster “Bill” Lucado Jr., Feb. 18, 2022, Juliette, Ga. Lucado became a successful land developer and set up Southern Land and Lumber, which he ran out of his office in Gray, Ga. He loved antiques, hunting, traveling and music. He became a well-known music promoter in middle Georgia, bringing big names to the area such as Little Richard, Taj Mahal and the Tedeschi Trucks Band. He was involved in the early years of the Big House and was Derek Trucks’ mentor as he started his journey in music.

1980

H. Steve Butler, March 23, 2022, Gaffney, S.C. Butler was retired from Norfolk Southern Railway. He enjoyed farming and raising cattle with his dad. He was a member of First Baptist Church of Gaffney.

Ralph George Hellmer Jr., Feb. 3, 2022, Amelia, Va. Hellmer worked at Pool Wizard in Farmville, Va. He loved remodeling his house into his wife’s dream farmhouse-style home. He had just completed his last project and had started another major project on the day of his passing.
1982

Amanda Gay Henderson, April 4, 2022, Spartanburg, S.C. Henderson was a client representative at the YMCA of Greater Spartanburg. For much of her career, she also was the owner/operator of the retail store Butterflies & Daffodils. She was a member of Boiling Springs First Baptist Church and was the recipient of the Robert H. Chapman Philanthropy Award.

1983

John Scott McFadden, April 17, 2022, Easley, S.C. McFadden enjoyed playing golf, snow skiing, fishing and cheering on the Terriers.

1984

Frederick Wessels IV, April 15, 2022, Landrum, S.C. Wessels was the patient accounts team lead at Greenville Memorial Hospital. He was active in the Boy Scouts of America and Hawksnest Ski Patrol for many years.

1989

Gregory Hines Leekley, April 28, 2022, Charlotte, N.C. Leekley was the chairman and CEO of Vertigo Music for the past 10 years. He was previously the owner and CEO of Open Finance Network, a turnkey family office and wealth management platform. He started his career with Muhleman Marketing & Richardson Sports.

1993

Gentry Forrest McColm, Feb. 6, 2022, Pearland, Texas. McColm began his career as an associate pastor of Devenger Road Presbyterian Church in Greer, S.C., before becoming head pastor of Hope Presbyterian Church in Pearland. He authored the book “The Inner Life of the Church Planter.” After 15 years at Hope Church, he embarked on a new career with Chick-fil-A. He began working in one store and quickly grew to overseeing three stores. His most recent promotion was to senior director of operations in Pearland. He was an avid reader, car aficionado and foodie.

1996

Rhett Brooks Austin, April 13, 2022, Mount Pleasant, S.C. After working for various appraisal companies, Austin established the Austin Appraisal Co. in Mount Pleasant in 2004. He owned and operated the company until his death. He enjoyed playing tennis and was a member of the tennis team while at Wofford.

FRIENDS

John Townsend “Jay” Wakefield, March 15, 2022, Roebuck, S.C. Wakefield was a third-generation General Motors dealer, following in the footsteps of his grandfather and father, and serving as president of Wakefield Automotive since 1993. He began working in the family dealership at age 10, washing and detailing cars. As a teenager, he worked summers in the parts and service departments. He was a big fan of the Wofford Terriers and a graduate of Leadership Spartanburg and Leadership South Carolina. His community impacts were many — from the Red Cross and Mobile Meals to the Episcopal Church of the Advent and the Spartanburg Development Corp.

W. Charles “Charlie” Witzleben, March 4, 2022, Durham, N.C. Witzleben started his career as a chapter consultant, then consultant director for Sigma Alpha Epsilon national fraternity. He moved to Durham in 1986 to join the fundraising consulting firm of Ross, Johnston and Kersting. In 1992, he formed his own fundraising and public relations firm, Witzleben & Associates. During this time, he was a consultant for Wofford’s “Investment in People” campaign, making friends and building relationships across campus that he maintained until his death. His son Clark Witzleben is a 2011 Wofford graduate.

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wofford.edu/familyweekend

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